Cannock
CHRONICLE

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FURY OVER CEMETERY SITE PLAN

Head Bernice Astling

By Carl Jackson

PLANNERS were expected to give the go-ahead to a mausoleum at Burntwood a cemetery this week – despite concerns from the head of a nearby school.

The owners of Chase & District Memorial Park want to add the monument to the site which opened in November 2013.

Erasmus Darwin Academy School has strongly objected, saying its playing fields back onto the piece of land that is earmarked for the mausoleum.

The principal, Mrs Bernice Astling, has warned that mourning families visiting the mausoleum would be disturbed by children playing. Planning officers at Lichfield District Council recommended approval of the development at a meeting take place on Tuesday.

Mrs Astling said: "Planners need to be aware that the development is located next to a secondary school for nearly 1,000 children and young people daily in term time.

"The part of our school that directly bounds the planned development is used constantly for sports.

"There is usually a lot of noise coming from this part of the grounds ie calling out, cheering, shouting, perhaps even boos, shrieks and yells.

"In other words, the normal loud retorts that anyone would expect when children and young people are playing sport and games in an enthusiastic and sometimes boisterous manner."

Mrs Astling added: "I cannot understand how the siting of a mausoleum next to our academy site would be deemed appropriate by anyone.

Context

"The planning documents states that the mausoleum would feature 'a calm and tranquil setting' but I don't think that those who have submitted plans have taken account of the wider context of the site.

"I do not find it conceivable that mourners visiting the mausoleum would find it acceptable to hear the normal and expected noise levels."

The principal declared that any complaints from people regarding the noise from the school grounds would be unjustified. Burntwood Town Council has also objected to the scheme.

Chase & District Memorial Park had to change its name from Walsall Burial Park earlier this year after members of the public pointed out the facility did not lie within the borders of Walsall.

The mausoleum would include a central access and crypt area with burial vaults either side on five different levels.

The owners, Springhill Cemetery Group, were unavailable to comment.

Businesses hit as road closed, claim

SHOPKEEPERS in Hednesford claim they have been losing valuable business due to the closure of a busy main road in the town.

The boss of one charity shop claimed their takings were down by up to 50 per cent.

Market Street closed to drivers on April 20 for up to 12 weeks for South Staffordshire Water to carry out the second half of a water mains improvement scheme.

Other shops have also been affected with elderly and disabled customers cancelling appointments because they cannot be dropped off outside. Passing trade has also suffered, businesses claim.

The water company says it has done everything possible to keep disruption to a minimum and would review compensation claims 'where relevant'.

The company said it had provided extra signage to support traders' message that Market Street was still open for business and that pedestrian access to the road was being maintained.

The company's onsite team was also working with traders to ensure access for deliveries.

Overseas nurse influx at hospitals

HOSPITALS in Staffordshire are turning to overseas nurses as they try to cope with an influx of thousands of extra patients.

Bosses at the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust are looking to recruit 150 nurses from the Philippines.

The nurses will be brought in to work at both County Hospital in Stafford and the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

They will join 150 nurses from Spain, Italy and Portugal who joined last year – a fifth of the total intake – as well as Filipino nurses who were taken on a decade ago, many of whom have stayed in Staffordshire.

Trust bosses have turned to the Far East again because of increased competition from other hospitals to recruit nursing staff from Europe.

The move has been welcomed by campaigners who say the proposal is better and cheaper than employing agency nurses.

Ian Syme, co-ordinator of pressure group North Staffordshire Healthwatch, said: "It is better than relying on agency nurses who cost more and do not give the same continuity of care to patients."

New twin arrivals share royal birthday

Donna Harvey and Michael Williamson from Burntwood with their twins, Toby, left, and Tyler, born at Walsall Manor Hospital

Parents' double joy

BURNTWOOD parent Donna Harvey enjoyed a right royal celebration as she gave birth on the same day as the Duchess of Cambridge.

Donna, aged 30, celebrated the arrival of twin boys Toby and Tyler, who now share their birthday with Princess Charlotte.

The service delivery administrator, who works at the Argos Distribution Centre at Acton Gate, Stafford, admits she was oblivious to the arrival of another little royal as she prepared for a delivery of her own on Saturday.

She gave birth a month early by Caesarian section at Walsall Manor Hospital after they presented in the breech position.

Donna, of Hollygrove Lane, said: "I can remember the nurses telling me that Kate and William had had a girl but I couldn't say where I was at the time. I was totally oblivious, everything was a bit woozy that day."

She and partner Michael Williamson, a 32-year-old heating and ventilation engineer, welcomed Toby, weighing in at 5lb 13oz at 3.22pm, followed four minutes later by Tyler, at 5lb 4oz.

Donna said: "I didn't even know I was pregnant till I started putting on weight. I went for a scan when we came back from holiday and I was gobsmacked when they told me I was eight weeks pregnant with twins. To be honest, I still haven't taken it in."

FUNDRAISER

Quiz night curries favour with charity

AN Indian restaurant is gearing up for its second curry and quiz night – after its first sell-out event raised £170 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The monthly quiz is hosted at the Dilshad in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, by David St John, a world record holder as the most prolific TV quiz show contestant.

It starts at 8pm on Monday, May 18. Cost per person is £15 which includes a starter, main course, rice or naan and dessert or coffee plus entry to the quiz with maximum of six people per team. Prize for the winning team is £50. Book on 01543 570264.

CEREMONY

Firefighters gather for thanksgiving

HUNDREDS of firefighters will gather in Staffordshire this weekend for a thanksgiving service.

The annual ceremony will take place at the Fire and Rescue Service Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield on Sunday.

Its aim is to show appreciation for firefighters serving throughout the UK and abroad. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service is hosting the event along with the Firefighters Memorial Trust.

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JOBS

Boost as builders' merchant expands

JOBS are being created as an expanding builders' merchant opens a new store on a three-acre site in Rugeley.

Family-run Tippers already has seven branches in the West Midlands – including Lichfield and Wolverhampton – selling building materials and plumbing supplies, and offering tool hire.

Director Bill Tipper said the move into the Cannock Chase area marked the next stage of the company's plans to expand further across the region.

He said: "We have always been aware that there is scope for a stand-alone branch to better serve the local market."

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Ambulance service best in country

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service has been named as the country's best performing.

Its paramedics responded to heart attack patients faster than anywhere else and control rooms staff were quickest to answer 999 calls.

Only two services in the country bettered its performance for reaching all other types life-threatening emergencies.

The figures, released by the Department of Health, show the service also came second for the amount of time it took for a patient-carrying vehicle to reach scenes of emergencies. Its performance, measured across the board during the period 2014/15, could not be matched by any other service.

Figures showed the West Midlands Ambulance Service had beaten its target of reaching patients who were suffering heart attacks or severe breathing difficulties within eight minutes.

That happened 77 per cent of the time, two per cent above its target and higher than any other ambulance service in the country. The service fell one per cent short of the same target for reaching all other life-threatening emergencies but came third nationally. Emergency calls were answered in under one second by ambulance staff on average during the 12-month period.

In total, 96 per cent of calls were answered in under five seconds, one per cent above the average and the highest in the country.

The service's chief executive Anthony Marsh said the results were the 'testament to the hard working staff' of the trust. "There is no doubt that 2014/15 was an incredibly challenging year for all ambulance services," he said. "With rapidly rising demand and continued delays at hospital which have a hugely adverse impact on our ability to get to patients.

"Despite that, the fact that we have done so well is a real testament to the incredibly hard working staff of the trust.

"While this is an excellent level of performance, we are in no way complacent. We are the first to admit that we can still make further changes to the service that we deliver."

Clubgoers bid farewell as nightspot closes

A FAMILY-run nightclub in Burntwood has closed its doors for the final time after the owners decided to retire.

Clubgoers bade a fond farewell to the venue on Saturday night.

Owners Jennifer Heath and Trevor Mansell wanted to shut the Bridge Cross Road club in style on Mr Mansell's 78th birthday.

Beacon Community Church are already in talks to take over the building and convert it into a place of worship and training centre.

Mr Mansell said he had seen many changes over 40 years but that the time was right time for the club to close.

"It is a sad time, an end of an era for our family but Jenny and I would like to take this opportunity to thank customers and staff, both past and present for their custom and support over many years," he said.

"We both hope to leave you all with some good memories of No 7s, it was unique.

"I am looking forward to retirement and I am looking forward to spending time with my grandchildren."

Salon

Mr Mansell first purchased the building in 1972 with his late wife Deirdre. They converted the building into offices, before expanding and opening 'Sauna Nova', a ladies beauty salon. They later opened a hair salon and boutique at the venue.

In the late 1970s, Mr Mansell opened a wine bar there, called No 7s. His wife died of leukaemia in 1985 and in 1987 businesswoman Mrs Heath, now 65, joined the family-run business.

A 4am licence was granted in the late 1990s for the bar to become a late night venue.

Mr Mansell's daughter Lisa, 47, worked in the wine bar and his grandson was working every Friday as the house DJ.

Pastor Sandy McMeekin, from Beacon Community Church, said: "We have been looking for a permanent home and we are currently in talks with the owners. We hope to move from Chase Terrace Technology College in around 10 weeks.

"The venue will only need cosmetic changes as we are a contemporary church and our aim is to create something for all the community."

Rare Archie takes some bleating

Melissa Underwood-Grattage with Bagot goat Archie at the Shugborough Estate

MEET Archie – one of the rarest goats in the world – and no kidding!

Not yet a month old, the little Bagot goat calls the historic Shugborough Estate home and is testament to the success of its breeding programme for the endangered.

Shugborough is the UK's only complete working historic estate and one of just 20 Rare Breeds Survival Trust farm parks in the country. Many animals kept at the farm are British livestock breeds rarer than the Giant Panda. And the Bagot goat is the rarest breed of them all, with only 100-200 female breeders left in the world.

Estate staff say they work hard with breeders and farmers to ensure the animals are saved from extinction. Spokesman Corinne Caddy said: "The Bagot goats we have on the farm have the best genetics of those left in the world.

"We don't actually own the goats, they are owned by the Rare Breed Survival Trust but we are entrusted with them for our quality level of care.

"They are critically important to us, we now have 16 adults and eight babies at the farm.

"Bagot goats are actually a Stafford breed, they originated at Blithfield Hall in the medieval times, so it's great to have them back in the area."

Other breeds at Shugborough include Boreray and Soay sheep, Middle White pigs and a dairy shorthorn cow.

Sessions at libraries to shine light on dementia

LIBRARIES across Staffordshire are holding a number of free information events as part of Dementia Awareness Week.

Anyone seeking help or advice is invited to go along to free drop-in sessions, held by the Alzheimer's Society and other supporting organisations, and obtain information about support for those living with dementia.

Dementia Awareness Week runs from May 18 to 22, and all Staffordshire libraries offer Reading Well: Books on Prescription for Dementia titles.

These books help sufferers and their carers to understand and to live with the condition, and to find out about the support available.

The drop-in sessions include: May 18 – Great Wyrley Library 2pm-3pm; May 19 – Lichfield Library 2pm-4pm; May 20 – Rugeley Library 10am-midday; May 21 – Burntwood Library10am-midday, Penkridge Library 2pm-3pm.

Staffordshire County Council cabinet member Mike Lawrence said: "As a county council we are committed to ensuring residents have access to the support they need to lead as fulfilled and independent lives as possible.

"Staffordshire's library service is proud to support Dementia Awareness Week and play a small part in helping people whose lives are affected by dementia, get access to the support and information they need."

For more information about Staffordshire Libraries' events and activities, visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Hi-tech move for police on the beat

POLICE on the beat will be more mobile than before, in a move that is expected to free up 250,000 hours of police time.

Front-line officers, PCSOs and Specials across Staffordshire will receive new smartphone and tablet devices to give them the tools at their fingertips.

The move aims to avoid them having to return to their offices to complete paperwork, submit reports or statements, and access files.

Initially, each device will have access to seven key processes such as taking electronic witness statements, stop and search forms, missing people reports and crime scene management.

Eventually, at least 30 processes will be available under the scheme, introduced by Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis.

Talk to group will be on traditions

NORTON Canes Historical Society's next meeting is on Tuesday between 7 and 9pm at the library in Burntwood Road, Norton Canes. The speaker is Mary Bodfish and the title of her talk is 'Beer, Bets and Bull Baiting' giving an insight into Black Country traditions.

First steps for walks aiming to aid fitness

A NEW initiative has been launched to get people in the Cannock Chase district active and healthy through walking.

Chase Fit encourages people to join in group walks in the beautiful natural environment of the district. The scheme is being run by leisure provider WLCT on behalf of Cannock Chase Council.

George Gaye, of WLCT, said: "Government guidelines advise people to do 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise a week, and walking is a great way to spend this time as it improves all areas of wellbeing.

"Chase Fit not only gives people the chance to keep fit and meet new people, it also offers opportunities for volunteers, so why not get in touch and see how you can get involved?"

Walks will leave from various locations, including Hednesford Park, Birches Valley, Marquis Drive Visitor Centre, Chase Leisure Centre, and Mill Green Nature Reserve.

The initiative will include Walks for Wellness, which are specifically for individuals with a medical condition.

Contact Kay Brown by emailing k.brown@wlct.org or Lynn Franklin at l.franklin@wlct.org for further details. Alternatively, contact Chase Leisure Centre on 01543 504065 or Rugeley Leisure Centre on 01889 586260.

Anyone interested in joining a walking group or becoming a walk leader can contact Hettie on h.pigott@wlct.org or visit www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/chase-fit

County's food business studied

A STUDY of Staffordshire's multi-million pound agriculture and food economy, commissioned by the county council, has been launched.

It embraces every aspect of growing and rearing, production, manufacturing, marketing and selling.

Councillor Mark Winnington, cabinet member for economy, said: "We want to understand the size and characteristics of the sectors, their supply chains, whether they need more people with specific skills coming into the market and what support they will need to continue thriving in future."

The report will be completed in the summer and the findings shared with the industries later this year.

The survey is available at www.localfood.org.uk/wordpress/staffs/

Church invitation to special service

FAMILIES are invited to a special service in Hednesford on Sunday.

The 'worship with a difference' service will take place at Trinity Church, in Station Road, at 10.30am, and will be followed by a buffet.

Help at hand for earthquake victims

The disaster scene in Kathmandu

THE Rotary Club of Cannock is sending almost £2,000 of emergency aid to help victims of the Nepal earthquake.

Part of the money will pay for a Shelter Box which includes a tent, thermal blankets, ground sheets, and a water box, plus £1,000 in cash.

President Allan Rotchell said: "We feel the provision of shelter and clean water is the immediate need and the donation of £1,000 will be most beneficial when the immediate affects of the disaster have been overcome."

Meanwhile, the Midcounties Co-Operative has launched an emergency fundraising initiative in Staffordshire to encourage local residents to help those affected by the earthquake. The disaster has left thousands of people dead or without shelter.

Collection points have been put up in all Midcounties trading sites across Staffordshire including its food stores, travel branches and pharmacies.

Ben Reid, Chief Executive Officer at The Midcounties Co-Operative, said: "The earthquake in Nepal has had devastating effects on the lives of thousands. The disaster has touched people's hearts across the world. We know there will be many Staffordshire residents who want to do something to help the victims of the earthquake, so we want to make this as simple as possible by providing them with easy access to collection points where they can donate and know that they are making a difference.

"Co-Operatives have a significant role in economic life in Nepal, particularly in the food, farming and finance sectors, and the funds collected will help The International Co-Operative Alliance to reach out to Nepal members."

Town a sea of yellow to remember Stephen

THE home town of cancer victim and fundraiser Stephen Sutton has become a sea of yellow to mark the first anniversary of his death.

Homes, cars, lampposts, trolleys, shop windows and railings across Burntwood have been decorated with symbolic yellow ribbons to remember the 19-year-old who helped to raise £5 million for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Yellow primulas, planted on Burntwood's Swan Island in Stephen's memory, are also in bloom.

Stephen lost his battle to bowel cancer on May 14 last year and the Burntwood community decided to turn his town yellow to mark the anniversary – the way it was decorated following his death.

Turn Burntwood Yellow For Stephen was organised by Sharon Whitchurch, aged 44, and a team of community fundraisers have spent six weeks selling ribbons and encouraging residents to show their support.

The skills coach at Bromford Housing said: "I want the community to have a way to show his family that a year on we haven't forgotten about him and everything he achieved. It is a fitting tribute.

"The town looks so beautiful, I am overwhelmed. It really did bring a lump to my throat seeing the little touches everywhere. It shows how much pride and love we have as a town for Stephen."

Journey

A Teenage Cancer Trust spokesman said: "Having the support of the community will help us to raise awareness and fulfil Stephen's wish of being able to help other young people like him who are going through their own cancer journey. Thank you Burntwood."

Mother-of-one Mrs Whitchurch, from Bracken Close has also organised a balloon release for 5pm on May 14 at Chasetown Football Club.

Balloon tags are available from a variety of venues in the town and the fundraisers have set up a just giving page for donations to Teenage Cancer Trust.

Companies are encourage to buy a large gold letter that will spell out Stephen Sutton MBE for £15 per balloon, with a sponsor also needed for the helium.

Stephen, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer aged 15, created a 46 item bucket list, which included plans to raise £10,000 for the trust.

The former Chase Terrace Technology College pupil ended up helping to raise £3million before he died. The sum increased to a final total of £5m. Donate at www.justgiving.com/balloonsforstephen

Michelle Aucott, from Teenage Cancer Trust, and Sharon Whitchurch, among the flowers

Kelvin Townsend of Burntwood Computer Cen-

Lorraine Luke from Jhoots Pharmacy

NEWS IN BRIEF

Try sailing for free in initiative

SEVEN Staffordshire sailing clubs and watersports centres are to push the boat out to give visitors a taster.

Enthusiasts can try sailing for free between May 9 and 17 as part of the Royal Yachting Association's Push The Boat Out initiative.

Among the clubs taking part are Chasewater Outdoor Education Centre, Greensforge Sailing Club and South Staffordshire SC.

All that is needed are warm clothes, soft-soled shoes and a waterproof.

For full details visit www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo

Morrisons opens fast checkouts

MORRISONS is introducing express checkouts at its store in Cannock.

The express lanes will serve customers who wish to buy 10 items or fewer – cutting down the length of queues on the other tills. Two express lanes are being introduced.

Meanwhile, Morrisons in Burntwood is introducing a new range of 'free from' products at its store in High Street to provide for the growing number of customers who want gluten, meat and dairy free products.

Twelve per cent of the population currently has a dietary requirement.

Pupils learn from children's author

KEY Stage 2 pupils at Churchfield Primary School in Rugeley were visited by award-winning children's author Harriet Goodwin.

The children took part in two workshops. In the first, they learned about Harriet's journey to becoming a best-selling author. In the second workshop, held at Rugeley Library, she gave the children tips on how to become creative writers.

All of the children received a signed copy of one of Harriet's four books.

Getting in the swim with centre lessons

A NEW 10-week course of adult swimming lessons is to start at Penkridge Leisure Centre on May 29.

Lessons are available for non-swimmers and improvers between 7pm and 9pm. An experienced swimming instructor has the ability to help pupils overcome fears and gain confidence in the water.

For further information or enrolment, prospective pupils should contact Penkridge Leisure Centre, Cannock Road, on 01785 714152.

Eyes down at centre

A PRIZE bingo evening will be held tomorrow at Huntington Community Centre. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and the session will run until 9.30pm. Admission to the venue in Stafford Road, Huntington, is free, and there will be a raffle and refreshments. Call 01543 577544.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

"IT'S hot and upbeat, like the jauntiest level of Hell." Australian comedian Deborah Francis-White on Radio 4, explaining her reluctance to return to her native Oz.

RESEARCHERS in Germany are investigating a link between gum disease and dementia. No surprises there, then. Oral hygiene, or the lack of it, has already been linked to diabetes, stroke and heart disease. The surprise is that, whatever the mouthwash companies may tell you, there is still no remedy for advanced gum disease. History will probably judge how many billions of dollars chucked at research into diabetes, stroke, heart disease and dementia would have been much better spent finding a cure for bleeding gums.

A NEW survey reveals that SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has the highest approval rating of any UK politician. The lesson of history is that the most dangerous politicians are the popular ones. The healthiest reaction to anyone wearing a rosette is not a warm glow but a healthy, chilly dose of suspicion.

IF there's one thing more misleading than opinion polls, it's election posters. A friend tells me his town is bedecked in Labour red with hardly a Tory banner in sight. The strange part is that the town consistently returns a Conservative MP.

AND now the computer takes over from telly. All six episodes of the new Peter Kay comedy series Car Share were available on iPlayer before being screened on BBC1. It is clever, lovely, life-affirming stuff, as you would expect from a national treasure like Kay, and the casting of unknown Sian Gibson as the shop worker sharing Kay's car, and morphing from plain lass to rock chick as she fantasises about being a pop star, is perfect. I loved the misheard confusion over who had been assassinated. Was it JFK or Geoff Capes?

NEVER let the facts get in the way of a good headline such as: "Could wolf-whistling be a crime?" The truth is that Poppy Smart's distress at a building site in Worcester had nothing to do with mere wolf-whistling. It was about the 23-year-old being repeatedly confronted and embarrassed in the street by builders who thought they were God's gift to women. The police have had a few quiet words with them, which is precisely what the police should do in a situation like this. And it's exactly what these leering navvies would demand if it were their wives, girlfriends or sisters suffering the same intimidation. The defence "It's just banter, innit?" doesn't apply when it's your own loved ones.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Council to target misuse of bins

COUNCIL bosses in Cannock are launching a 12-month crackdown on people putting the wrong items in recycling bins.

A campaign will see messages displayed on buses and in supermarkets.

Chiefs at Cannock Chase Council say they lose money by items being put in the wrong bins.

The year-long campaign will also include posts on social media and adverts on council cars. A recent refuse delivery at the recycling plant in Aldridge saw more than seven tons of materials rejected as it contained food and garden waste. The load had to be disposed of via landfill.

The council's head of housing and waste management, Ian Tennant, said: "Residents in the district are recycling more. However, contamination – where householders put wrong or unacceptable materials in the blue and brown bins – is on the increase.

"This can cost council tax payers money. We are asking residents to work with us and to understand the importance of putting the right item in the right bin."

Cannock has one of the highest recycling rates in Staffordshire and performs better than its neighbouring Black Country councils.

The council is launching a crackdown

Woman hit by train after sitting on track

By Deborah Hardiman

A WOMAN died after being hit by a train in Penkridge as horrified commuters looked on and her friend screamed for help.

Amelia Pashaeva was killed instantly after she jumped off the platform and sat down on the track.

The 38-year-old was struck at 8.25pm on January 22. She had been drinking and 'caused a scene' at the village station on January 22, an inquest heard. Her friend Pamela Upton had grabbed her and tried to get her to move along the platform.

In a statement read on Miss Upton's behalf, British Transport Police coroners' liaison officer Paul Simmonds said: "When they arrived Miss Pashaeva caused a scene so Miss Upton grabbed her and took her along the platform.

Platform

"She jumped off the platform and sat down on the track. Miss Upton was unable to get her off. She remembers seeing a man on the opposite platform and screaming at the man to get her off. She remembers seeing the train coming and there was a collision."

Also known as Emilia Bashaeva, she had a history of heavy drinking and was said to have joked about 'having vodka for breakfast'.

A Georgian national who lived in Hertfordshire, Miss Pashaeva was heading back home after visiting her friend. She had drunk a large bottle of vodka and cider.

The friends met in London after Miss Pashaeva arrived from Russia in around 2003. They later lived and worked together in Northern Ireland. Miss Upton stated they often drank together and sometimes smoked cannabis.

The inquest was told Miss Pashaeva's partner had noticed that she had developed drinking issues.

South Staffordshire Coroner Mr Andrew Haigh gave a narrative conclusion that Miss Pashaeva was 'hit by a train on a railway line'.

The incident resulted in severe delays on the West Coast Mainline.

Appeal as Freddy finds new home

Freddy, now homed with Marcus Freeman, who is ictured with Ruth Dewis

A 12-month-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier has become one of the latest dogs to find a new home after being rehoused by a voluntary organisation in Staffordshire.

Rugeley Welfare for Dogs has helped to rehome more than 100 canines in the past decade.

It is run from the homes of Ruth Dewis and Pauline Roberts in Rugeley, who are currently trying to rehome another four dogs.

They had been searching for a new home for Freddy for a few months and the stray has now found a new home with Marcus Freeman, from Rugeley.

Mother-of-two Mrs Roberts, aged 62, said: "He approached us to find him a dog and wanted a Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He loves Freddy to pieces."

Among the dogs needing to be rehomed are Zoey, a white Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross, who was found as a stray and has been trying to find a new home since last year.

Frankie, an 11-month-old Patterdale cross, and his mother Lilly, aged five, are also trying to find homes after their previous owner gave them up.

A relationship break up also led to the owners of nine-year-old greyhound Jodie to give her away.

Ms Dewis, aged 46, said: "Zoey has been in kennels for a long time. People just keep walking past her but she is a very loving girl and loves her walks and company."

For more information or to offer donations, call 07900 090993 or 07971 817877.

£500 prize to help pay for Cara's India trip

A RUGELEY teenager has won £500 from a town charity in memory of its president, former councillor Nancy Walker, who died last year.

Cara Rees, 19, of Etching Hill, will use her win to help fund a trip to India.

Rugeley's Chetwynd Charity set up the commemoration project, asking local youngsters to say how best they might use £500 to improve their own lives.

Cara, an enthusiastic Guide, chose to reveal her ambitions to become a Guide Leader.

Her prize win will go towards a £1,500 trip to an international Guide project next summer in Sangam, India.

"When I found out I had won £500 to help fund my trip, I was over the moon and was nearly in tears – of happiness of course. I didn't expect it at all," she said.

"Guiding is one of the most important parts of my life and has been for 15 years.

"Without the £500 I would not have been able to go and take part in the community project over in India.

"This isn't just going to help me get there, it will help help me complete my adult leadership qualification and become a leader at a unit, which has been one of my biggest dreams since I can remember. Thank you so much."

Pat Tams, the charity's chairman, said that in awarding a prize to Cara, trustees had been impressed with her passion and determination to succeed in achieving her ambition.

New police chief to be paid £140k

THE new Chief Constable of Staffordshire will be paid a salary of more than £140,000.

Applications for the top role have now closed, and Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis is in the process of drawing up a shortlist.

The appointment will be offered for a term of up to five years at an annual salary of £141,915.

Former Chief Constable Mike Cunningham left in August, and Deputy Chief Constable Jane Sawyers has been acting as Temporary Chief Constable. Mrs Sawyers is believed to be interested in the job.

Mike Cunningham was appointed Chief Constable in September 2009, drawing a salary of £139,931 although his pay, including pension contributions, amounted to £183,741.

£600,000 work on hall is completed

WORK to transform Glenthorne House in Cheslyn Hay into homes at a cost of £600,000 has been completed.

Built in the late 19th Century, it has been converted into 11 apartments by South Staffordshire Housing Association.

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Boss in jobs alert over new home development

THE boss of a toxic waste treatment plant in Cannock has warned jobs may be affected by the council's decision to give the go-ahead to more than 100 new homes near to the business.

Augean also said residents would be put at increased risk from explosions through stray sparks from homes setting off fireworks and starting bonfires.

The company strongly objected to the plan by Cannock-based Project AML to build 111 homes and a pub on land off Lakeside Boulevard, Bridgtown, Cannock due to the hazardous nature of the waste it handles.

Augean director Edward Pigg said the company felt it was being 'squeezed out' in favour of homes.

Mr Pigg said: "With the upturn in the economy, we have doubled our number of employees at the site and we hope to increase that further.

"However, the company may now have to consider its future in the area which will put local jobs at risk."

He added: "We believe that the risks of the site alongside homes are being deliberately ignored by the developer and those risks will put us under pressure to leave the area."

But the contractor said the homes offered the regeneration of a derelict site, and a commitment that at least 20 per cent of the homes would be affordable. Walsall Housing Group has been given a grant to buy homes there. Project AML said they were conscious of Augean's proximity but described their operation as 'low-key and well managed.'

Walks feature in activities line-up

A SERIES of activities is taking place across the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The programme includes a free Bluebell Walk on May 15 at 10am. Meet at Beaudesert Scout Camp.

There will also be a free Bird Walk led by Roger Broadbent from West Midlands Bird Club on May 18 at 8am. Meet at Seven Springs car park.

Two free Woodland Management days will be held on May 21 and June 5 from 10am to 2pm at Shoal Hill common, and an Arboretum Walk around Shugborough on May 19 at 10am.

To book any of the activities, or for more information about the Cannock Chase AONB, contact Emma Beaman on 01785 619186 or email emma.beaman@staffordshire.gov.uk

Church to hold a mini-market

A SPRING fair and mini-market will be held in Great Wyrley this weekend.

The venue for the event, which will run from 11am to 1pm on Saturday, is St Andrew's Church in Hilton Lane. Call 01922 419161 for details.

80pc of homes for sale 'unaffordable'

JUST two out of every 10 homes on sale in the West Midlands is affordable for the average first time buying family, according to new research from the housing charity Shelter.

It claims that nearly 80 per cent of properties on the market aren't affordable for families looking to buy their first home.

In South Staffordshire there were just 23 – less than seven per cent of homes on sale in the district were considered affordable.

The housing charity analysed asking prices for thousands of properties for sale throughout the region, and compared them with the mortgage that an average family buying their first home could afford.

That revealed only 22 per cent of home for sale are affordable for families that need at least two bedrooms, and only eight per cent – less than one in 10 – are affordable for larger families looking for homes with three bedrooms or more.

In Cannock, Sandwell and Kidderminster and Wyre Forest, just two in 10 homes were affordable, while in Wolverhampton and Walsall the situation was slightly better, with nearly three in 10 homes affordable.

Dudley was the most affordable district in the Black Country, but more than six out of 10 homes were still out of reach for first time buyers.

The charity says families across the region will be forced to cope with continued instability and sky high housing costs unless there is urgent action to build more homes. Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "Nearly 80 per cent of homes on the market are off limits for a typical family in the West Midlands, and this is nothing short of a scandal.

"Decades of failing to deliver the homes we need is leaving millions trapped in expensive and unstable private renting, or in their childhood bedrooms, with barely a hope of saving for a home of their own.

"For the next government, whoever that may be, it's time for the talk to stop and the work to begin. Politicians need to act swiftly to deliver the plan that will build the 250,000 homes a year we need, or millions more people will be forced to kiss their dreams of a stable and affordable place to live goodbye."

Jobs threat fears in wrangle over smells

THE owner of Hollybush Farm claims more than 350 jobs are at risk due to an on-going legal battle over bad smells coming from the Shareshill site.

Jack Moody, the retired owner of Jack Moody Ltd which runs both the farm and Hollybush Garden Centre from Warstone Road, said his companies would be crippled if he had to pay out 'silly money' in compensation.

Mr Moody also hit out at no-win-no-fee law firm, Hugh James Solicitors, saying it had actively encouraged residents to make complaints about odours coming from the composting plant at the farm.

He has urged claimants to back away from legal action and instead support a charitable trust set up to benefit the community. The businessman said he had already put £250,000 into the pot to be spent in the area and pledged to double it by 2018.

"We are hoping the 60-odd residents get rid of their lawyers who are costing the area fortunes and get into this trust fund and make it work," he said. "We want this trust fund to help good causes in the area and it is a fairer way of distributing the money.

Family

"This legal action is a real threat to 350 livelihoods in the area. We run numerous business on this site including the garden centre employing over 350 people. Ninety-five per cent of our employees come from a 10-mile radius and we employ third-generation families.

"Trades have been passed down from father to son. We ourselves are a family business."

In regards to the bad smells, Mr Moody said things had improved greatly but the ongoing legal case was hanging over the firm.

Mr Moody said the odours were mainly caused by materials the company was testing for local councils, its core customers, to help them meet recycling targets. But he said because of the smells, councils had stopped processing their waste at the site, although it did take some time to remove.

Residents making claims said they had been advised by Hugh James not to discuss the case.

The firm itself was not available for comment.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Hollybush Community Trust Fund can contact Kate Marriot at kate@jackmoodylimited.co.uk or on 01922 417648.

Handball team celebrate triumph

Captain Athalia Ibanga, aged 15, and the rest of the Cardinal Griffin Girls U16 handball team

A HANDBALL team at a Cannock school is celebrating after winning the final of a national tournament.

The team of girls from Cardinal Griffin RC High School was representing Staffordshire in the National County Under 16 Girls championship.

They took on schools from Cheshire, Dorset, Kent and Warwickshire. The Cannock girls excelled, winning all of their games decisively, including the final where they defeated Cheshire 13-3 to become national champions.

County manager Nenad Popovic, said: "This was a significant statement by the girls and credit must go to coaches Maria Moore and Lydia Ashton.

"They have done a large part of the work with the girls – I just put the finishing touches to it.

"Cheshire have dominated the championships over the past couple of years so the win was particularly welcomed. In every aspect of the game, the girls were outstanding and have set the bar at a very high level.

On the back of their success at the Wellington School in Somerset, the girls are now looking ahead to the National Schools Championship on June 13 and 14 at The University of Worcester Arena.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Primary school aims to expand

A SCHOOL in Heath Hayes is hoping to expand with the addition of two classrooms.

Five Ways Primary School has lodged details with Cannock Chase Council to build the extension.

Plans for the school in Langholm Drive also involve building a new cloakroom, toilets and sick bay.

An extra 2,000 primary places have been provided in Staffordshire through expanding schools and building new ones to cope with an anticipated rise in birth rates and a planned increase in new housing.

Aldi store's plan for a new sign

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

Aldi Stores, Milestone Way, Burntwood – installation of a non-illuminated directional hoop sign.

Cregneebar, Hollow Lane, Colton, Rugeley – ground and first-floor side and rear extensions to form porch, lounge and en suite.

76 Redwood Drive, Burntwood – two-storey side extension to form dining room and bedroom with en suite.

Comments on any of the applications must be received by Monday, May 18.

Charity shop in plea for helpers

THE British Heart Foundation shop in Rugeley is appealing to local residents to be Heart Heroes by volunteering for the charity.

The shop is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help generate more stock, ranging from clothing and books to toys and shoes.

The shop is also seeking more volunteer drivers to help collect and deliver stock to the shop. Visit bhf.org.uk/volunteer or call 01845 574925 to find out about opportunities.

Discussion on how garden was created

CANNOCK Chase U3A will be presenting an entertaining story and talk of how Graham and Judy White managed to create a distinctive and highly acclaimed garden in Uttoxeter .

The garden will now be open to the public having gained a listing in the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), but getting into the NGS Yellow Book was a backbreaking task.

The talk will be given at Victory Hall, Slitting Mill, Rugeley, on Tuesday May 12 at 2pm.

Castle is destination

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will go on an eight-mile easy walk at Elvaston Castle near Derby on Sunday. Walkers should meet at Hednesford railway station's car park, in Anglesey Street, for a prompt 9am departure. For details, call the walk leader, Neil, on 01543 270862.

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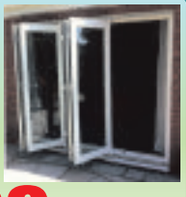

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Hangover? Just hang garland round neck

THE throbbing headache, the churning stomach, if there ever was a real cure for a hangover its creator would make billions.

Well according to boffins at Oxford University, the ancient Egyptians thought they had it cracked.

Instead of Alka-Seltzer and ibuprofen, the ancient Egyptians believed that walking around with a garland round your neck is the best way to cure that morning-after feeling.

It's an interesting thought. But I would just love to see the conversation with the copper when explaining the unusual item of clothing at three in the morning.

❑❑❑❑❑

THE milestone birthday arrives, and the tabloids can barely control their excitement. Pages of coverage for days on end, and countless pictures.

No, not the new royal Princess, David Beckham's flippin' 40th birthday...

Does anybody really care? Forgive my indifference, but isn't it time we all learned to get over the middle-aged underpants salesman?

It has been many years since he played football at the top level, and I really don't understand what the continued fascination is with the man who always promised so much, but ultimately failed to live up to expectations.

When he burst into Alex Ferguson's exciting Manchester United side in the mid-1990s, he had the world at his feet, a prodigious talent who set the Premier League alight.

However, his story is ultimately one of a player who became so engrossed in the celebrity lifestyle that he never quite fulfilled his undoubted potential. Yes, he could cross a ball beautifully and he had a fine free kick, but he always gave the impression of being more interested in partying with pop stars than getting stuck in on the football pitch.

A good footballer, yes, but never the great one he could have been.

And regardless, his footballing days are long over, so why do we need to be treated to endless pictures of him in his underwear?

Maybe to ladies of a certain age he is the bee's knees, but to me he is still the bloke who kicked the Argie up the bum and threw away our hopes of getting one over the old enemy.

❑❑❑❑❑

NOEL Gallagher has confessed that he steals plump pillows from Italian hotels so he can get a good night's sleep on tour.

Keith Moon used to throw television sets out of hotel windows. Ozzy Osbourne bit the head off a bat. Noel Gallagher half-inches fluffy soft furnishings.

Rock'n'roll excess. It ain't what it used to be, is it?

Second lieutenant Randolph Ridling's medal

Second lieutenant Randolph Ridling

The circular grenade throwing bay on Cannock Chase

Diary reveals act of wartime heroism

A recently discovered journal describes how an officer saved the life of a recruit 100 years ago on Cannock Chase

AN act of heroism on a Staffordshire wartime training camp 100 years ago has been unearthed in a regimental war diary.

Second lieutenant Randolph Ridling threw himself into a trench to save the life of a recruit who had taken the pin from a live hand grenade, taking most of the impact in the ensuing explosion and was awarded the George Medal.

The brave act by the New Zealand officer took place during the First World War at Brocton Camp on Cannock Chase where many Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) soldiers were trained for battle.

The discovery comes as veterans around the world united to commemorate Anzac Day, marking the contribution of volunteers from Down Under to the war effort.

Archives

Details of the training camp accident are contained in the war diaries of the 5th (Reserve) Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, uncovered by Lee Dent and Richard Pursehouse of local military historical research group The Chase Project.

The pair had first come across the story in local newspaper archives and investigated further, eventually tracking down the brigade war diaries in New Zealand and talking to a relative of the war hero.

Randolph Ridling was a teacher in Auckland when war broke out in 1914. He married in May 1915 and volunteered a few months later, shortly after his young wife died. He was quickly promoted and in October 1916 was sent to Flanders. He took over command of C Company, 4th Battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade in February 1917. The Brigade was moved to the Messines Ridge area, south east of Ypres, where, exactly a year later, Ridling was shot in the arm when a 200-strong German raiding party crossed No Man's Land and attacked the New Zealand trenches.

Second lieutenant Randolph Ridling, behind the table with arm extended, giving instructions at Brocton

He was brought to England and eventually transferred to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade Reserve Depot at Brocton, where he was assigned 'light duties' as he continued to recover. Initially he was the Assistant Adjutant at Brocton, and as his strength improved he also became the Bombing Instructor, training recruits at Cannock Chase.

On April 19, 1918, one of the recruits, Rifleman 63475 John Archibald McCurdy, pulled the pin from his Mills bomb and dropped it in the throwing bay and 'lacking the presence of mind to escape' he kicked the bomb towards the entrance and retreated to the inner end of the bay.

Seeing the danger and realising the grenade would explode in a couple of seconds, Ridling shouted at the rest of the men to clear the trench, grabbed McCurdy but, as he attempted to get him clear, the grenade exploded, severely wounding him.

His action was strongly commended by General Godley, Commander of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, who wrote: "The coolness and bravery of Lieutenant Ridling undoubtedly saved the man's life."

Ridling's academic background was put to good use after the grenade incident, and he became the Education Officer at Brocton, ensuring that wide and varied courses in animal husbandry, mathematics, mechanical engineering and even therapeutic classes such as metal moulding classes were provided.

He was also instrumental in creating the glow-worm farm for night map-reading training on the Messines model that was created at the camp. After being discharged from the Army on September 28, 1919, Ridling went on to Queen's College Cambridge where he gained an MA (Diploma in Agriculture) in 1921, and eventually returned to New Zealand. He remarried and adopted a daughter who would eventually offer his medals on permanent loan to the National Army Museum in New Zealand. He returned to teaching until retiring in 1950. After retirement he was active in UNESCO trips abroad, including to Beirut.

Awarded the Albert Medal for his heroism, Ridling was invited in 1971 to swap it for the George Cross but wrote to the Queen asking if he could keep his original medal for sentimental reasons. The request was granted.

Randolph Ridling died in 1975 in his home town of Wellington, aged 87. The Chase Project is currently researching what happened to Rifleman John Archibald McCurdy.

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Officers commended for work in community

A KIND PCSO who took time away from her family on Christmas Day to take food to a frail and vulnerable man was among a number of officers to receive a special award.

Ten people were acknowledged at a ceremony held at Staffordshire Police's headquarters, where Chief Superintendent Jeff Moore presented the accolades.

PCSOs Clare Evans and Patrick Wright were handed Certificates of Commendation after going above and beyond their roles to help a man in Hednesford who had been the victim of a burglary.

Police had become concerned for his welfare because he was frail and did not interact with anyone in the area.

His home and gardens were also poorly maintained and the property inside was littered with piles of old rubbish and newspapers, while there was no electricity supply.

Responded

PCSOs Wright and Evans gained his trust and arranged for window locks to be fitted and electricity to run again at the home. PCSO Evans continued to support the man, visiting him on Christmas Day while off-duty.

Ch Supt Moore said: "Patrick and Clare have responded to the vulnerability of a member of their community.

"They have built up trust and have taken time, patience and care to make sure the man gets the support he needs. The actions have clearly made a vulnerable person safer and it is great that we could recognise their efforts this evening."

Fellow Cannock-based PCSO Jacqueline Dennis received the same award in recognition for her role on the Troubled Families Team. She was commended for her work in helping to find lost children, setting up food and clothing banks for families, arranging drug talks in schools as well as her non-wavering professionalism.

Special Sergeant Laura Robson was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her work throughout her career in the Lichfield area on the Special Constabulary.

Also recognised were Pc Bethan Gilbert, CCTV operator Dane Fearn and civilian Andrew Harris for their roles during a pursuit in Chasetown, PCSO Deborah Harrison for her work in the Wilnecote and Dosthill areas and Uttoxeter-based Pc Jason Hughes in a drink driving campaign.

PCSO Dennis with her award

Special Sergeant Laura Robson

PCSOs Clare Evans and Patrick Wright, with Supt Jeff Moore

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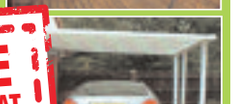

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It's time to end crisis in housing

PRESSURE the politicians! We need Homes for Britain!

The housing crisis has reached its boiling point. Year on year as a nation we have failed to build enough homes.

We've turned back the clock on home ownership to the levels of 1980s, with more and more of us stuck in unsuitable houses and millions languishing on housing waiting lists.

And so, alongside thousands of others, I have joined the Homes for Britain campaign to end the housing crisis within a generation.

We want politicians to be bold and come up with a long-term plan for housing in this country.

Senior politicians from the five main parties attended our rally right next to the Houses of Parliament and said that they backed our campaign.

So now we must hold them to it.

M WETTON
Stafford

Get the facts straight on lack of homes

I REFER to Mr A Allport's letter 23 April, and again remind him to get his facts straight with regard to the content of my original letter that he refers to in his opening sentence.

I did not imply or make any comments on any government's track record about the lack of housing. What I did state is that vicious unfair cuts to those who can least afford them, is causing homelessness to soar.

Mr Allport claims the benefit system was out of control under Labour. But he fails to mention that when we had record unemployment under the Thatcher government she took a huge number of people off Unemployment Benefit and put them on Invalidity Benefit to get the unemployment figures down. The truth is, people remained on Invalidity Benefits for many years, and the Tories could live it due to increased revenues coming in from North Sea oil and the sale of the 'family silver'.

Whilst I understand the validity of welfare claimants now has to be checked, I believe if the Tories regain power, forcing a further £12 billion of cuts on ordinary working people and claimants is unfair, while billions of pounds are being secreted away in tax avoidance by the super rich.

Gordon Brown did sell the gold, and I did not agree with it. But at least he sold it at the market price, not like the Tories did with the Royal Mail.

COUNCILLOR PAUL WITTON
Cannock South

Humps do not slow bad motorists down

IN reply to the letter from D Evans of Rugeley ('Speed humps are there to make the roads safe', April 9), I do not see how it is safer to force motorists to pass each other head-on, so closely, as happens as we naturally attempt to straddle the humps, under the track of the car.

No-one should be exceeding the speed limit, but you cannot police drivers every minute. There are, unfortunately, too many drivers who seem unable to keep to reasonable behaviour. These people are not slowed down by either speed humps or potholes. Therefore the bad roads are inflicted upon all of us, to no purpose.

Think of those in cars who have painful conditions of the back – each jolt causes pain – and the potholes and poor surface replacement after roads are dug up are enough to put up with.

Remove the humps, and use the speed cameras.

R JORDAN
Hednesford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Raise a hole lot of cash

NATIONAL Doughnut Week is taking place from May 9 to 16 in aid of The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. I wish to make an appeal to the general public to get involved, by buying friends or work colleagues a doughnut treat from bakers and coffee shops displaying National Doughnut Week posters. Whoever and wherever you are, please get involved.

PHIL TUFNELL
Ambassador, The Children's Trust

Choose the appropriate fundraiser

I AM writing in response to the letter from Matt Pattinson regarding Race For Life ('Let men go in for this race as well', April 9).

I do not find his comments to be audacious as he suggests; instead I find them rather sad.

This year I am for the first time taking part in the race. I am doing it in memory of a very dear male friend who died last year from stomach cancer.

There are many avenues open to both sexes which enable them to participate in fundraising for not only Cancer Research but many other charities.

I would say to Matt, please don't bring sex equality issues into this but get out and help and be supportive of someone who is taking part in a race for this very worthy charity.

Please don't forget the fundamental reason for the races, which is finding a cure for all types of cancer.

SUE ANDREWS
Penkridge

Change the debate on EU membership

WHY has the EU become a question of in or out? Migration, with politically induced racial bias, is the major debating point but many other important elements are not being fully exposed. The Common Fisheries Policy is a prime example of how the UK has not benefited from membership.

In terms of overall trade, apart from 1980-84, we have had an increasing deficit with all member states – in 2012 it had reached £46 billion compared with a £17bn surplus with the rest of the world.

There are many more points that, complete with factual information, should form part of a constructive debate, including the Common Agricultural Policy. All this is happening while support for our NHS, police and fire service is having to be found through radical cuts and borrowing.

L COOPER
Cannock

Disgrace that so many reliant on food banks

I WRITE regarding my concerns over the necessity for food banks. From 2010 to 2015, these have increased from 56 to 445, an increase of almost 700 per cent and are still rising, frequently due to low paid and insecure jobs.

I think it is a disgrace that people are having to depend on food banks to provide emergency food assistance.

Many people are on the breadline and are reliant on food banks. The Trussell Trust found 86 per cent of their food banks reported an increase in referrals due to benefit sanctions. Some 1,500 organisations now provide emergency food assistance.

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Camra pick Colliers Arms for first of pub awards

THE first presentation of Cannock Camra's latest initiative – The Pub of the Season Award – has been made.

The inaugural winner was The Colliers Arms in High Street, Cheslyn Hay, where the licensees Carl and Lynne Worgan were presented with their framed certificate and trophy by the chairman of Cannock Chase Camra, Malcolm Pearson.

Cannock Chase sub-branch spokesman Chris Southall said the award was voted on by local Camra members who took into consideration, beer quality, friendliness of staff, pub ambience and how they interacted with the local community when making their choice.

Over in Lichfield, the city's newest pub – The Whippet – has won the best pub for 2015 awarded by the Tamworth, Sutton Coldfield, Lichfield branch of Camra.

Pub staff pictured outside The Colliers Arms in High Street, Cheslyn Hay

Delighted

In the year it has been open, it has served more than 482 real ales from 146 breweries plus 103 ciders.

Camra branch secretary Adam Randall said: "Lichfield has many fine pubs but The Whippet has brought an extra dimension to the city with its fine diverse choice of quality ales and ciders.

Local couple Paul Hudson and Debbie Henderson, who run The Whippet, said they were delighted and surprised to gain the award and thanked their loyal customers for supporting them.

Meanwhile, a book celebrating the very best of traditional pubs has been published by Camra.

Real Heritage Pubs of the Midlands features the iconic and historical character of 201 of the region's best pubs, including some of the most striking in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

One pub which has retained its number of rooms, albeit with some modern touches, is the Crystal Fountain in Cannock. The St John's Road pub suffered a long period of decline until it was taken over in 2010 by Black Country Ales, which refurbished it.

Paul Hudson and Debbie Henderson outside The Whippet in Lichfield

The Crystal Fountain in Cannock is featured in Camra's book

Michael Slaughter, who worked on the book, said that integral to the pub's continued survival is the supply of real ales – one of Camra's main interests.

The book, which contains a decade's worth of research, does far more than pick out the pubs which catch the eye from the street – it also highlights the interiors that range from the outright bizarre to the spectacular.

Real Heritage Pubs of the Midlands costs £5.99 and is available at www.camra.org.uk/books or on 01727 867201.

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Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Centre's search for star teacher

TEACHERS can still be nominated for a special award from Cannock Shopping Centre.

Part of the Star Awards campaign, which was launched in 2013, the competition aims to discover unsung teachers in the Cannock community.

The winner will receive an engraved award and a prize courtesy of the shopping centre.

To nominate a Star Teacher, before midnight on May 17, email cannocksc@pmw-com.co.uk or post to Cannock Star Teacher Competition, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP with an explanation of why they deserve recognition.

All entries should include both the nominator and nominee's names, and contact telephone numbers along with the age of the nominee and the town they live in.

Company teams up with uni for car industry partnership

A CANNOCK-BASED company has teamed up with Staffordshire University in a move aimed at revolutionising the motor industry.

By Simon Stone

The university has entered into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with ATP Industries Group Ltd, which re-manufactures car parts for leading makers including Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, Aston Martin and Mitsubishi.

Over the next three years the university will collaborate with ATP to design new software that will make end-of-line testing quicker, easier and more cost effective.

"We currently use a piece of software that is complex and not very user-friendly to test the products that we remanufacture." said Mark Bowen, sales director.

"The idea of the KTP is to write a bespoke piece of software and tailor-make it to exactly what we want. At the moment it takes weeks if not months to develop a new test and hopefully we can reduce this to days."

A graduate engineer will be assigned to run the project and will be mentored by academics from the university.

"Knowledge Transfer Partnerships provide fantastic opportunities for both businesses and the university, and this is no exception." said Matthew Hocking, enterprise reader for the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science.

"A recently qualified graduate has a chance to enhance their skills, and our academics will get access to a huge global market and can bring that experience back to the university."

The £300,000 partnership is being part-funded by Innovate UK – a national initiative that co-ordinates KTPs – with ATP making up 40 per cent of the total costs. If successful, the software could be sold commercially around the world.

"If we pull this off it will be a quantum leap forward not just for us but for the re-manufacturing industry as a whole," said Mr Hocking.

Endurance test now family affair

HUNDREDS of youngsters across Staffordshire are stepping up to take on an endurance course designed to push them to the limit.

Ironkids, which is open to children aged between three and 15, comes to Staffordshire's Shugborough Estate on June 12.

The challenge involves running a course of between 500 metres and 2.5 kilometres.

Kevin Stewart, managing director of Ironman UK & Ireland, said: "We have had a fantastic response to the first Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire with it selling out in minutes.

"The good news is that there is still time for children to join in the fun by signing up for Ironkids Staffordshire.

"The venue of Shugborough is the perfect backdrop."

Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Winnington said: "Attracting a world-famous sporting event like Ironman is great news for Staffordshire's economy, tourism and local people."

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Youngsters show team spirit on Prince's course

A GROUP of young people are celebrating after successfully completing a Prince's Trust course run by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The group of 13 young people, aged 16 to 25, have achieved The Prince's Trust Certificate after taking part in the charity's Team programme.

They were presented with their awards by Director of Prevent and Protect Dean Stevens and Team programme executive Jayne Rickus during a ceremony at Stafford College.

Among the recipients were Adam Sankey and Keanu Cox, both from Cannock.

The 12-week Team programme helps unemployed young people gain the skills and confidence they need to get into work or training.

Completed

During the course the participants have completed a residential programme, two fundraising challenges, a community project, a two-week work placement programme and a team challenge.

The group has also completed an additional qualification, Certificate in Supporting Employability and Personal Effectiveness, and received free driving lessons from the service. Some participants completed their theory test as part of the course.

Safer Communities CIC in partnership with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service teamed up with The Prince's Trust to launch the charity's Team programme, which has been supported by Stafford College.

Joyce Underwood, Team Leader, said: "The young people have worked incredibly hard during their time on the course and have developed skills in a variety of areas."

The next Prince's Trust course starts on June 1.

Email princes.trust@staffordshire-fire.gov.uk for further information.

Adam Sankey with certificates

Keanu Cox – successful course

Charity walk on the Chase

A STAFFORDSHIRE charity is inviting people to join in and sign up for a summer walk on Cannock Chase.

More than 100 have already registered for the Katherine House Hospice Big Summer Walk.

The event has two routes, from five miles for fun to a 10-mile challenge.

The walk on June 28 is sponsored by Afsystems carpet and pressure cleaning, Acorns letting services and Mercedes Benz Drayton Group.

The cost is £12.50. Children under 16 accompanied by an adult are £2. Registrations close on June 24 – on-the-day registration is £15 per person.

Stafford-based Katharine House Hospice has been providing free care and support for adults and their families across Mid-Staffordshire coping with a progressive illness since 1989.

To book call 01785 270808 or go to www.khhospice.org.uk

Those interested in volunteering should call 01785 270808 or email fundraising@khhospice.org.uk

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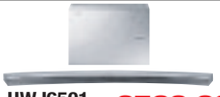

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Erica rises to tough marathon challenge

Erica Burt-Moore raised much needed funds for a children's charity by running the London Marathon

A RUNNER from Cannock completed the London Marathon and raised much-needed funds for a disabled children's charity in the process.

Erica Burt-Moore, aged 33, who now lives in Rugeley, completed the route in five hours and 28 seconds.

Having completed the event in 2011, Erica, who works as a solicitor in Lichfield, said: "It was tough but I didn't expected anything else. The atmosphere was fantastic and the crowd were willing every single runner on around the city. But importantly, of course, I've raised much-needed funds for Caudwell Children, who provide practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families."

Mark Bushell, from Caudwell Children, said he was delighted that Erica made it across the finishing line, adding: "The Caudwell Children team would like to congratulate Erica on her lung-busting efforts on behalf of the charity.

"She understands the importance of our work and really appreciates the startling statistics around childhood disability." To sponsor Erica, visit www.justgiving.com/Erica-Burt-Moore-runs-for-caudwell-children/

For more about Caudwell Children, visit www.caudwell-children.com

Victims of crime are supported in scheme

A NEW support service that is expected to help about 60,000 victims of crime each year is to be launched in Staffordshire in August.

Victim Gateway will be run by Citizens Advice Bureau and will be available to all victims – whether they report the crime or not.

The new service will replace the current regional general support service delivered from Birmingham by Victim Support. Latest figures show that one in 10 people have been a victim of crime or have witnessed a crime in the past 12 months.

By Katy-Rose Meaney

The service will provide free advice and support either over the phone or in person.

Contract

Simon Harris, Staffordshire North and Stoke-on-Trent CAB's chief executive, said: "CAB is delighted to have been awarded this contract to deliver such an important service.

"Traditionally, a lot of people visiting CAB have experienced crime. From August, they will be able to come to us for support in that area as well as the other issues that they're used to talking to us about. It's an exciting development that allows us to build on the work which we have done for many years with victims of hate crime in Staffordshire and more recently working with the PCC's office in hosting victims' specialists to support vulnerable people."

Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "Currently, the very services that are there to support victims and witnesses can be anything but user friendly, meaning the experience people have of the courts and criminal justice system can be as taxing and traumatic as the original incident. This new service will change that."

Party held to celebrate WI birthday

The Ridwares WI

GWEN Johnson told the March meeting that her passion for wild flowers had started at a very early age as her father was a keen conservationist.

In pursuing this passion she was able to identify many local sites where wild flowers could be enjoyed.

Gwen, who looks after a conservation area in Colton, illustrated her talk with many beautiful pictures and gave another dimension to country walks. Jeanette Roberts won the vase of garden flowers competition.

Some members attended the Staffordshire Spring Council Meeting at the County Showground. Guest speakers were ITV Central newsreader Sameena Ali-Khan and actor Tom Owen.

A nursing sister from the Royal Stoke Premature Baby Unit thanked the Staffs Federation members who had made beautiful garments for premature babies.

March also saw The Ridwares celebrate its birthday. The hall was beautifully decorated, the ladies enjoyed a sit-down meal and singer William May entertained with Rat Pack' style songs.

Representatives from each WI in The Blythe Group joined in the dining and the dancing and everyone went home with a heart and a slice of birthday cake.

A vintage tea party and fashion show will be held at the village hall on June 18 at 3pm. Tickets are £5 from any committee member.

President's praise for trio of members

President Janis Lomas, with honorary members Georgina Ward and Dora Leighton

Cannock Soroptimists

JANIS Lomas had a very enjoyable last task as Cannock & District SI president when she recognised the service given to the club by three of its members.

Jill Gooch was presented with a certificate for 30 years of service to and membership of Soroptimist International. Jill was President of the club 1993/94 and again in 2003/04 and this year has been joint secretary and events organiser of the club.

Georgina Ward and Dora Leighton were each presented with certificates marking honorary membership. The former was made an honorary member in the club's diamond year. Dora has held honorary membership for nine years. They have both been president, have held many other offices and continue to support the club's aim.

President Janis congratulated them on their work to promote the aims of Soroptimism and improve the lives of women and girls. The Cannock & District club has 41 members aged 34 to 99 and from varying working backgrounds, all of whom enjoy the friendship of membership alongside the action they take to help women.

Bunting competition flagged up

Shareshill WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed everyone to the meeting with the news Rose Lynk had been successful in the ballot to represent the WI at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in June.

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM. All present committee members are willing to carry on with the exception of Margaret Matthews who is unwell. Julie Cornfield is a new committee member.

The rest of the evening was taken up with members making bunting for the County competition while enjoying cheese and wine refreshments.

Arrangements are well under way for the Centenary Challenge Party in the Park 40s night.

The May 21 meeting is a Resolutions meeting.

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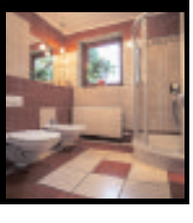

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Pub campaign set to fail as shop plans unveiled

A MUCH-LOVED Cannock pub that closed following a long-running campaign to keep it open looks set to remain shut for good after it emerged it will turn into a shop, under new plans.

The new owners of The Pied Piper site in Cannock have applied for permission to convert the building into a store. Disappointed campaigners say it is the 'last nail in the coffin' for their local.

SEP Properties, which specialises in refashioning former pubs into convenience stores, has submitted its plan to Cannock Chase Council.

Contracts on the site were exchanged in January and the pub closed the following month. In March, SEP director Engrez Sanghera indicated he had not ruled out reopening The Pied Piper and operating it as a pub.

The Pied Piper pub in Pye Green Road, Cannock, is now standing empty

Future

However, the current application involves remodelling and altering the existing building, with a large space marked for retail, including a storage room and a row of car parking spaces at the front of the premises. The first floor would be retained as a living area.

The directors of SEP Properties have remained tight-lipped but campaigners see the move as bad news for the future of the Pye Green Road pub.

The firm, which has bases in Dudley and Lichfield, also recently bought The Terrace silver service restaurant in Watling Street, Brownhills.

Leading campaigner Phil Dempster said he would be speaking to other residents to determine how they felt about the new plans before deciding whether to continue the fight.

When news of the sell-off was announced last year, customers started a petition urging bosses to have a rethink. They said it was a 'vibrant community pub', home to several sports teams and actively involved in charity fundraising. Customers successfully applied to have the pub registered with the council as an 'asset of community value' after a petition to save it was signed by around 600 people.

It was the first time the legislation, brought in under the Localism Act more than two years ago, had been tested in the district.

Marston's Brewery had agreed in principle to sell the pub to HB Villages who proposed replacing the building with 16 flats for young adults with learning difficulties. Their application was subsequently turned down by Cannock Chase Council.

The pub was placed on the authority's asset register until August 2019 and can only be replaced by another 'community asset.'

Mr Dempster said: "The problem is the term is open to interpretation. The community asset label could turn out to be a white elephant." Bosses at SEP Properties were unavailable to comment.

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Man locked up over sex with girl, aged 14

A CANNOCK man who groomed a 14-year-old girl, asking her for naked selfies before having sex with her in his car, has been sentenced to 20 months in youth custody.

Apprentice Ricky Parton initially befriended the girl and kept up contact through text messages, Stafford Crown Court heard.

The messages gradually became sexual until Parton asked the girl to send him pictures of herself naked, said Miss Michelle Heeley, prosecuting.

Secluded

The girl did send him two pictures, but they were not of herself. However, in July last year, Parton arranged to meet the girl and picked her up in a car.

He took her to a secluded spot near Cannock Chase visitor centre in Marquis Drive and they began kissing. He suggested intercourse and had sex with the girl. When she returned home, the girl's father became aware of what had happened and was so concerned she was taken to hospital.

Miss Heeley said Parton had been well aware of the girl's age, but decided to breach the law anyway.

Parton, aged 20, of Pye Green Road, admitted sexual activity with a child and two offences of making indecent photographs of a child.

Mr Paul Lamb, mitigating, said: "As soon as the incident had taken place and he was contacted by the complainant's father, he immediately regretted his actions and he has had a significant period of time to reflect on that.

"At the time he was only 19-years-old and somewhat immature."

Parton was also ordered to register as a sex offender for the next 10 years.

Judge Michael Chambers QC told Parton: "She was a vulnerable 14-year-old. There has been an element of grooming and planning. You intended it to be a sexual relationship and that is the seriousness of the matter."

The judge added he did not consider Parton to be a danger to children, said he was not likely to re-offend and because of the mitigation was imposing a sentence below the guidelines.

Diamond couple celebrate anniversary

Diamond duo – Brian and Jean Howard, of Heath Hayes, toast their 60th wedding anniversary

MARRIED life has had its ups and downs for Heath Hayes couple Jean and Brian Howard – including the death of their son. But they have overcome it all to rack up 60 years together.

After meeting at a dance when Brian was stationed with the RAF near Mablethorpe and Mrs Howard was a Land Girl, the pair wed at North Somercotes Parish Church, in Lincolnshire.

Mr Howard, now aged 80, undertook sales management training with Littlewoods which took him to branches across the country. They moved to Staffordshire in the 1970s and he became a branch manager for a Birmingham builders' merchant. Mrs Howard, 84, looked after their six children as he travelled with his job. They also have 10 grand and two great-grandchildren.

The couple lived in Burntwood, for about five years. Sadly, their son Peter died, aged 19, in a road accident on the A5 in 1976.

After spending 20 years in Northamptonshire, the couple returned to the Cannock area in 2012. A short holiday to mark the milestone will be followed by a family party.

The couple on their big day

Arriva bus route back by demand

A BUS service from Cannock to Stafford has been fully reinstated less than two weeks after it was reduced following calls from the public for it to return.

A new timetable for the Arriva-run number 75 service came into force on April 26, which saw the route stop at Penkridge.

However, the service was re-introduced this week, running hourly to Stafford from Monday to Saturday, after customers highlighted the demand for the service.

The service will run between Cannock, Penkridge, Dunston, Stafford town centre, County Hospital and Staffordshire University.

Sunday buses will run up to every 120 minutes excluding stops at County Hospital and Staffordshire University.

The change means two buses an hour will be available between the towns. Changes to departure times from Stafford to Cannock will be introduced in the near future.

The Arriva website states: "Customer feedback has highlighted the need to reinstate through buses on service 75 to Stafford from Cannock, Penkridge and Dunston."

Spokesman Keith Myatt said: "We're sorry for any inconvenience during the short period when service 75 has operated between Cannock and Penkridge only."

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What I do think I need to spell out is why it's more important than ever to think locally. No-one is going to win this election unless something utterly incredible happens in the dying days of this bitter, long-winded campaign.

Yet another selfie as Nicola Sturgeon goes on the campaign trail

Deals

It doesn't matter how much David Cameron and Ed Miliband say they're going for an all out majority. Neither is going to get one. The next government will be formed as a result of discussions and deals done behind closed doors. It's not the case that the party that wins the most votes also wins the most seats. If that's happened before it's only been by a happy coincidence.

While the parties argue it out, while they bicker over whether or not the real winner will be Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP, the most important thing is going to be having a decent MP fighting your corner.

Nicola Sturgeon, for all the risk it's claimed she poses to the United Kingdom, is fighting tooth and nail for the people she represents. She'll squeeze every last drop of funding out of the Treasury for Scotland if she gets the chance and she's not even an MP. Can we really blame her for that? She's doing her job. What every one of us will need in Westminster will be an MP who is going to be the flea in the ear of the government, whichever party or parties form it.

Ordinarily the best sort of person to have is someone who puts the national interest first. There's no longer any such thing. Devolution is coming whoever wins the election.

It's going to be a mad dash for the West Midlands to get itself organised, make its bid for powers over skills, transport and health and use them to compete furiously with a rapidly rising northern powerhouse and an ever expanding south east.

We're not all in this together anymore. Not as a nation at least. It's going to have to be the West Midlands, with a population larger than Scotland, versus the rest in this new political order. Another absolute certainty is more cuts. Public resources will continue to be squeezed and if there is to be any money for it then it will need someone utterly and completely devoted to improving their constituency to get it.

That person might be of any of the parties and that party's policies are still vital, of course, when making the decision. They will be expected to go along with every one of those manifesto promises in the event their leader becomes Prime Minister.

The next government might not deliver anything like what the individual parties promise if it is formed of compromise, confidence and supply. The choice of local MP is the only thing over which the ballot paper exercises any control whatsoever.

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Life-saving club on the crest of a wave at award

A WATER rescue club started by two men who could not swim until they were both 39 is celebrating winning the most awards for their skills in Staffordshire.

Cheslyn Hay Life Saving Club has been teaching water rescue and safety techniques for 31 years but this is the first time it has achieved the premier county spot.

Members, who train at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre in Saredon Road, picked up a total of 23 awards throughout the year and received the cup from The Royal Life Saving Society.

The presentations were made at a branch meeting in Gnosall by club chairman Roy Horton.

Mr Horton launched the Cannock Life Saving Club initially after meeting John Trout, the club's vice chairman, on an adult swimming instruction course.

The Cheslyn Hay club was set up later in 1984.

Club chairman Roy Horton and members celebrate winning the award

Advanced

Medals are awarded to youngsters who achieve certain standards of ability at various stages, from Rookie Awards, leading to Levels 1, 2 and 3 qualifications and on to more advanced bronze, silver and gold medallions. Membership currently stands at 60.

Mr Trout said: "It varies from year to year but we've never gone below 50 members and we have been as high as 70 and 80.

"Most of the children come on a regular basis. We're very proud as it's the first time we've been awarded this cup," he added.

"We've had individual successes over the years but never the cup for the highest number of successes in Staffordshire.

"Life-saving is seen as an interesting and useful hobby. Swimming is very popular among youngsters but what we find is they find it a bit boring after a while and life-saving is something that keeps their interest.

"Many go on to do their Duke of Edinburgh Awards."

The club, which is affiliated to The Royal Life Saving Society, takes children generally from the age of six or seven, as long as they can swim competently, with members often staying until their late teens.

The sessions cost £1 and take place on Saturdays between midday and 2pm.

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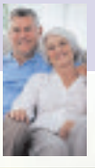

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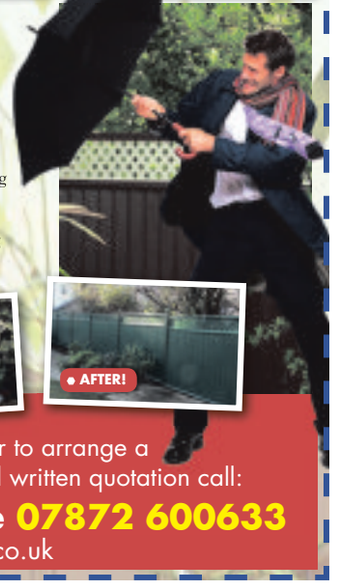

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Marathon attempt – at the treble

Will Bryan, who is running three marathons in consecutive days in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

A FATHER from Cannock is attempting a gruelling hat-trick – three marathons in three days – to raise money for charity.

Will Bryan will be running by himself along the Jurassic coastline in Dorset, starting just outside Charmouth. The van driver will also carry supplies with him.

The 29-year-old from Bridgtown recently cycled the width of Britain in a day to collect almost £1,400 for Macmillan Cancer Support. He has now decided to run the marathon distances at the start of June for the Alzheimer's Society, in memory of his grandmother Lily May Bridgart who suffered from dementia.

Mr Bryan, a qualified personal trainer, said he was hoping to raise around £350.

The start point is just outside Charmouth and he will run from west to east, finishing at the National Trust Shell Bay in Studland. To donate go to www.justgiving.com/3m3d or visit www.willbryan.co.uk

Money for saving lives

HUNDREDS of pounds have been handed over to help train volunteers in saving lives across Staffordshire.

County councillors George Adamson, Christine Mitchell and Alison Spicer have contributed a total of £1,200 from their community budgets towards funding more emergency first responders.

The first aid experts increasingly bridge the gap at the scene of an incident until an ambulance arrives. Cannock Chase has Community First Responders based in Penkridge, Huntington and Hednesford who not only cover their own villages but also regularly respond to emergencies in the wider area.

Mike Tym, Penkridge and District team co-ordinator, said: "Our main costs are our car, petrol, insurance and maintenance. The more successful we are at increasing our team and extending our availability the more these costs go up.

"So it is very encouraging and important for us that our local councillors have both recognised the value of what we do and have been able to help us through grants from their community funds."

Schemes are self-funded which means members have to raise money for items such as defibrillators and the costs of their emergency response vehicles.

The Staffordshire Local Community Fund initiative supports communities directly through local county councillors. Each councillor has £10,000 a year to allocate to groups and organisations in their area to provide and improve locally important services and promote community pride.

Each councillor contributed £400 from their funds. County Councillor David Williams, from Penkridge, has also has lent his support the local team over the last 12 months.

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It's prize time for hole-in-one golfer

On target – Tony Anderton scored his ace on the 176-yard, par-three ninth at the Chase Golf Club

A CANNOCK golfer will have no excuse for missing his next tee-time after winning a limited-edition BOSS watch for achieving a hole-in-one.

Tony Anderton, aged 26, scored his ace on the 176-yard, par-three ninth at the Chase Golf Club, and the three-handicapper was rewarded with membership of the exclusive BOSS Watches H1Club and a specially commissioned, commemorative timepiece.

He said: "I pulled out my seven-iron and hit my ball straight at the pin. I told one of my playing partners that I thought it had hit the flag, but I didn't actually see it go in from the tee. While another partner was hitting his shot, I looked through my rangefinder and couldn't see my ball on the green. As I was walking up towards the hole, I began to get a little excited and, as I peered in, there was my ball sitting in the cup."

The luxury German brand has again pledged to reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition in 2015, after giving away more than £1 million worth of limited-edition timepieces since its launch in 2013 – and Anderton is among the latest to achieve the feat this year.

Blockbuster store set to become charity shop

A FORMER DVD rental shop in Cannock is to become a charity shop.

The old Blockbuster store, locted on Church Street, closed in March 2013 and the empty store was purchased by developers Columbia Threadneedle Investments.

The shop will now become a Compton Hospice charity shop and is expected to be open by the end of the month.

The Blockbuster store

Paul Carter, General Manager of Compton Hospice Trading Company said: "We are really excited to be opening our first Compton Hospice shop in Cannock.

"The store will stock a range of items including men's, women's and children's clothing, accessories, homeware, bric-a-brac, furniture and giftware items."

Services

Compton Hospice provides free care to terminally ill patients at the end of life and needs to raise more than £6 million a year to keep its services running.

Mr Carter added: "The Cannock store will become part of a large network of Compton Hospice charity shops located across the Black Country.

"We are excited to be opening the store in Cannock and ask that anyone who is interested in volunteering to help run the store contact us."

Councillor George Adamson said: "It is a prime site and having the shop empty was not a great advert for the town."

For enquiries, call 0845 2255 497.

Warning on increase in puppy smuggling

SCORES of puppies are being smuggled into the UK in terrible conditions and sold with false paperwork, or passed off as 'homegrown' pets, Staffordshire animal health experts warn.

They say the dogs can be transported hundreds of miles from Eastern Europe in cramped conditions without food and water, weeks before they are legally old enough to be moved without their mothers.

The problem is a national one, with a tenfold increase in illegally landed animals identified over the past couple of years. The number of illegally imported dogs found in Staffordshire has risen from 'one or two a year' to 69 in 2013-14.

Once in the UK they can be sold direct to the public, or passed on through an intermediary, without the buyer knowing about the pup's background.

Lucrative

Although this is happening with any breed, the market is being driven by the demand for certain breeds such as French Bulldogs, pugs, English bulldogs, Pekingese, Maltese, bichons and chihuahua.

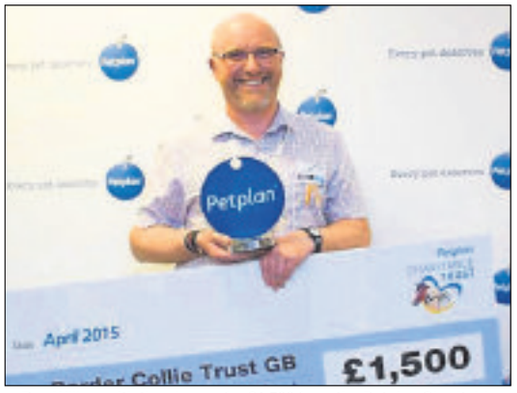
Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet member for economy, environment and transport, said: "The youngest age a dog can legally imported with all its vaccinations is 15 weeks.

"But these traffickers think the dog is already losing its 'puppy cuteness' by that stage and will be harder to sell – so they forge passports or break the rules to get it into the market place sooner.

"These breeds can be picked up for a few euros in Eastern Europe and sold here for hundreds, or thousands, of pounds so it's a lucrative business where no thought is given to the dog's welfare.

"It's public demand that's making this smuggling worthwhile for the traffickers, so people should look for the warning signs."

Volunteer gains award



Ben Wilkes with the cheque for £1,500 from the Petplan Charitable Trust after being named Animal Charity Volunteer of the Year

FULL-TIME volunteer Ben Wilkes, of Border Collie Trust GB in Rugeley, has been named Animal Charity Volunteer of the Year.

Now in their third year, the Petplan and Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) Animal Charity Awards celebrate the work, dedication and commitment of animal charities and not-for-profit organisations. The awards also identify animal charity teams, volunteers and employees that continuously go above and beyond in their mission to improve animal welfare.

Ben has been a volunteer at the trust for 18 years, after adopting a Border Collie from the charity himself. He started as a dog walker and became more and more involved.He said: "It's so exciting to receive the award but it's not just for me, it's for the entire team I work with."

A few years ago he and his wife sold their family home to live in the house on site at the Border Collie Trust, so he could be there 24/7.

In addition to the award, Ben was presented with a cheque for £1,500 from the Petplan Charitable Trust, which will be put to good use at the Trust in Staffordshire.

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Revamp signals a move in right direction for railway

CHASEWATER Railway Station has resurrected a dilapidated signal box after it was donated to them by the National Rail network.

By Tom Oakley

The heritage railway received the box from Madeley Junction – between Shifnal and Telford Central, after the West Coast Mainline which stretches from London to Glasgow was re-signalled.

Although it was donated in 2006 in a bad state of repair, it has since been refurbished and as of March this year being used to operate the train line.

Mark Sealey, aged 54, is the general manager of Chasewater Railway has been in charge of the project.

Foundations

He said the signal box had made the railway much simpler and safer than it was before.

"We started to refurbish it about 18 months ago. National Rail moved the box in for us but we've built the foundations and brick base around it, he said.

"It's had new windows, a new floor, all new gutters and the roof was redone too and we've obviously painted it too. Also the lever frame has been refitted inside, and in the last month it's been connected to the railway."

There are three stations on the line, the Chasetown (Church Street), Chasewater Heaths and the Brownhills West, and the signalling box controls the tracks to ensure all trains operate safely, over the correct route and to the right timetable.

It took staff 18 months in total to complete the project and was ready to use in time for its first industrial gala in March.

The next event is a coal train day which features a range of locomotives on both passenger and demonstration coal trains. For further details go to www.chasewaterrailway.co.uk.

General manager Mark Sealey operates the recently reconstructed signal box at Chasewater Railway Station

Diane wins award for dedication

A CHARITY shop manager has won a national award for her dedication to generating funds for St Giles Hospice.

Diane Sedgley, who lives in Burntwood, saw off competition from across the country to be named Hospice Retail Staff Member of the Year at the Hospice UK Retail Conference.

Diane

Since joining the hospice in 2012, she has overseen the development of two new shops in Cannock and Tamworth.

Most recently she has been appointed furniture manager and has set up a new house clearance service to help swell coffers.

She will be a key player in directing the success of the new clearance service.

Hospice group chief executive Peter Holliday said: "Diane is an exceptional example of someone who engages with the community and has an eye for driving income."

£63k to repair paths and kerbs

DAMAGED kerbs and footpaths in Burntwood will be replaced at a cost of £63,000.

The work on Ogley Hay Road is due to get underway in the autumn and will take four weeks.

A mother's marathon for Stephen

THE mother of inspirational teenager Stephen Sutton has more than doubled her £10,000 fundraising target after running the London Marathon.

Jane Sutton, completed the 26-miles in six hours, three minutes and 19 seconds in honour of her son.

Jane Sutton

She hoped to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, her son's original target on his bucket list.

Now her fundraising stands at almost £22,000 and she said she was 'overwhelmed' by people's generosity.

After completing the run she told her Facebook followers: "It was tough going at times but all I had to do was remember why I was doing it."

To sponsor visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/StephenSutton or text STEPHEN to 70300 to give £5.

A clean sweep for Samantha

SCHOOL cleaner Samantha Bucknall, of King Edward VI School in Lichfield, has been named Britain's Cleaner of the Year 2015, the inaugural award for public sector cleaning staff.

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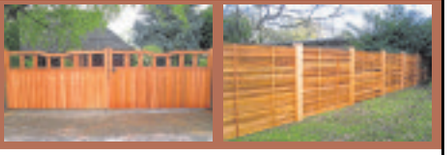

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Church hosts spring fair

A HEATH Hayes church stages a spring fair this weekend.

Visitors to Bourne Methodist Church, Hednesford Road, can try a host of fundraising activities, including name the toy, a raffle and a prize every time stalls.

It takes place from 10am to 2pm on Saturday.

There will also be book and gift stalls. Refreshments, including Ploughman's Lunches, will be available.

All proceeds will go towards church funds.

Dedicated fire staff are in line for awards

FIREFIGHTERS, individuals and volunteers based in Cannock Chase have been shortlisted for a total of four MORE Awards.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's annual celebration is in its eighth year. The winners will be announced during a ceremony in the Ingestre Suite at the County Showground in Stafford on June 23.

By David Banner

The awards highlight the work carried out by operational and support staff as well as Fire and Rescue Authority members and volunteers.

The Cannock Chase nominations include:

Community Safety Officer Ben Shipley, based in Rugeley, has made the shortlist for the Fire Service Champion – Service to the Community award.

He was told of concerns about a man who was drying clothes dangerously close to his cooker, causing a small fire breaking out. The property was in a state of disrepair but the occupant was refusing offers of help.

Contacted

Over time, Ben built up a good rapport with him and convinced him not to dry his clothes next to the cooker.

Community Safety Officer Kelly McCulloch, based in Cannock, has been shortlisted in the Fire Service Champion – Service to the Community category.

She met a frail woman in her 80s who was visually impaired and physically disabled.

wThe woman's front door was sticking and she had been struggling to open it. Kelly immediately contacted the council and asked them to address the situation as it was a potential fire hazard.

Firefighters in Cannock's Green Watch and Kelly McCulloch, Community Safety Officer, have been jointly shortlisted in the Fire Service Champion – Service to the Community category.

The crew met a man in his 80s while attending a fire on open land near his home.

The man lived alone in a secluded property which was in a poor state of repair, didn't have a toilet, the lights were not working and there were a series of hazards and fire safety issues.

Green Watch alerted Kelly to the situation and she worked with the crew to build up a relationship with the man – it took two visits before he allowed them into the house.

After gaining his trust, they fitted two smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector.

Jack Houlston, from Hednesford, has been shortlisted in the Young Person of the Year category for his development and positive attitude during the Prince's Trust 'Team' programme.

At the time he was not in employment, education or training. After talking to his uncle, who is a firefighter in Derbyshire, he completed a Level 2 qualification in Public Services.

Chief Fire Officer Peter Dartford said: "The people who have been shortlisted really have gone the extra mile."

Special group is set up to tackle arson problem

A SPECIAL group has been set up in Staffordshire in a bid to crack down on the number of deliberately started grass fires after a spike in the number of blazes.

Fire chiefs say that while call-outs to these sorts of blazes overall have reduced, figures show that April is one of the worst months.

In April 2014, the figure stood at 100 and it was much higher in 2013 at 250. A wet April 2012 resulted in 50 of these fires.

Chiefs at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have now set up a working group to tackle the problem.

Although figures for this April are yet to be released, bosses say they expect the number to have risen compared with last year.

Fire service corporate manager Kath Bourne said: "Overall the number of reports has come down but for the Easter period this year we will see a spike in the next available figures.

"I think it was a particularly long school break over the Easter and a lovely dry period. A working group has been set up to look at it."

She said a number of initiatives were already in place to educate youngsters about the dangers of starting fires including the Flames Aren't Games campaign.

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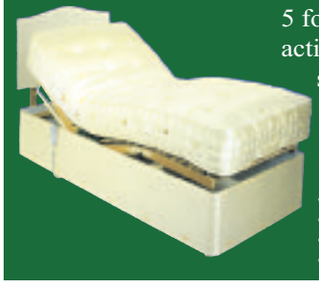

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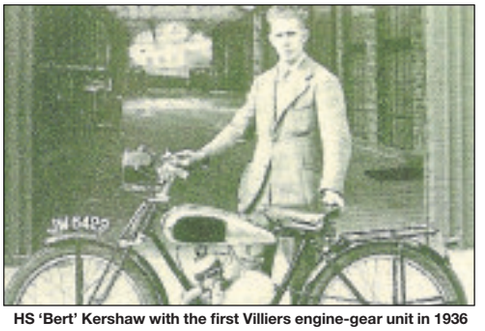
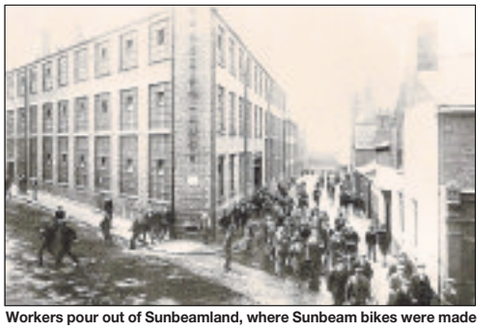
When town roared to victory at the Isle of Man races



HS 'Bert' Kershaw with the first Villiers engine-gear unit in 1936



Workers pour out of Sunbeamland, where Sunbeam bikes were made

THEY were glorious times for Wolverhampton, when the then town would send off several factory teams to the TT races on the Isle of Man, fully expecting that one or more would come back winners.

The Tourist Trophy Races were then the pinnacle of motorbike racing. In the Blakenhall area especially, workers would be anxious to hear news of how 'their' boys had got on, and whether they would hold bragging rights for the next year.

The main contenders were usually Sunbeam and AJS, competing for the senior and junior TTs, with several wins each during the 20s and 30s.

However, the small firm of HRD was to break the mould for a short while, with wins in 1925 and 1927, and Diamond, from Sedgley Street often competed in the lightweight TT, with a best finish of seventh, and even the tiny firm of HB, in Walsall Street, raced in 1923. Extraordinarily, these were not the only motor-bike manufacturers in Wolverhampton.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Clyno was a major name, but never fielded a racing team, and later turned to building cars. Villiers was one of the biggest names in the industry, but mostly as an engine supplier. Only very late in the day did the company build some of the last Norton Commando motorcycles, finishing in 1975.

Several other small manufacturers sprang up over the years, usually not lasting, long like Juckes on the Bilston Road, Olympic in Granville Street, Orbit in Sedgley Street and Wearwell in Great Brickkiln Street.

Now all of these marques are gone, and a town which was almost the centre of the British motorbike industry does not even have on display a single example of those glorious days.

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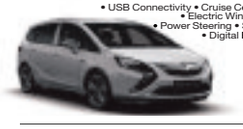

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Property

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Charlie's still a darling to gardeners

Charlie Dimmock who was at the Hollybush Garden Centre in Shareshill for a question and answer session

Among the plants at the site

SHE was a TV sensation who introduced millions of the joy of water features and decking. Now Charlie Dimmock is happier pottering around her own garden.

The former Ground Force star, who was visiting the Hollybush Garden Centre at Shareshill, confessed: "I don't really miss it. I had a fantastic time and did some amazing things that I would never have done as a straightforward gardener.

"It was informative as well as entertaining and gave a lot of people some straightforward advice.

"For seven years of my life it was bonkers and bit silly working seven days a week and hardly ever at home.

"I still work four days a week, do lectures on cruise ships and help at dementia and care homes where gardening can act as a great stimulus."

The 48-year-old, who lives in the New Forest, added: "Now I am enjoying a much quieter life and like having a bit of time to myself to potter about my garden."

Charlie gave a question and answer session and demonstration to a 200-strong audience at the Warstone Road site.

She said: "It is nice that people still recognise me and say nice things about me – except when they reveal their grandad likes me. Gardening went through a bit of a dip during the recession but is on the up again. You will never separate the English from their gardens."

She stepped onto the podium to give advice on hardy annuals like the best way to maintain bedding plants, how to look after hanging baskets and the difficulty of stopping weeds emerging through block paving.

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SATURDAY 9th MAY
11am - 2pm

Stepping Stones Childcare & Funzone would like to invite you to join us at our new premises where there will be activities for both parents to see, and children to participate in including face painting.

Our new nursery will be for children aged 2-5 years and will be open Monday through to Friday, with our new Funzone indoor play centre open to the public Saturdays and Sundays 10am until 6pm.

Our sister nursery, Stepping Stones Day Nursery which is located at Heath Hayes Community Centre has been open for numerous years and we are now expanding the business with the opening of our new premises. Our Martindale nursery has undergone extensive refurbishment with large amounts of money being spent in order that it complies with health and safety legislation. Our new nursery is ideally located and we pride ourselves on offering the highest standard of day care coupled with the flexibility needed to accommodate busy working families.

Stepping Stones Childcare & Funzone Limited
Unit 24, Martindale, Cannock, WS11 7XN
Tel: 01543 571818

Blues on the move from veteran performer Steve

Seasick Steve delighted the Civic Hall crowd during his two-hour set that ended his UK tour

REVIEW
Seasick Steve, Wolverhampton Civic Hall - By Leon Burakowski

WHEN it comes to touring, veteran bluesman Seasick Steve saves the best for last.

He told a packed Civic Hall that he planned to end his UK tour at Wolverhampton because he knew 'it would rock'.

And the 74-year-old Californian came across as a genuine humble guy as he thanked his employers, ie the fans, for giving him a steady job.

In a two-hour set, Steve Wold (he earned his nickname on discovering he and European ferry travel doesn't mix well) delighted a crowd with his homespun charm, rambling stories and bizarre homemade guitars.

These included a cigar box based model, the famous one made from two hubcaps and, best of all, the one-string washboard guitar. The latter once led a critic to suggest he was using effects pedals to enhance his sound. But Steve, still much amused at the suggestion, demonstrated that his hi-tech effects came from sticking a thimble on his finger with a plaster and then riffing the hell out of his washday diddley bow.

Wearing his familiar plaid shirt and John Deere tractor cap, the long-bearded singer-guitarist made probably the loudest sound since Royal Blood were at the Civic. He and similarly hirsute drummer Dan Magnusson thrilled a multi-generation audience with blasts of bluesy boogie, hillbilly stomps and punk like thrashes.

Another aspect to his sound was provided by fiddle player Georgina Leach, especially on the southern gothic of In Peaceful Dreams, all about grim goings-on in the backwoods.

The former hobo and busker showed a gentle side too, charming a girl a third his age with love song serenade Walking Man, keeping the audience spellbound with the poignant Treasures, and encoring with his favourite songs, Gentle On My Mind and folk ballad Silver Dagger.

Worthy of mention are support act My Baby, Steve's favourite new band. The Dutch blues trio fronted by Cato van Dyck held the attention of the full house with their blend of blues, psychedelic rock and dub reggae.

Shakes to sound of raw passion

ALBUM REVIEWS

By Leon Burakowski

The Alabama Shakes explore funky new directions on second album Sound & Color

THE torch bearers for Deep South blues, rock and soul, Alabama Shakes, keep it real with a distinctive second album, Sound & Color.

On it the band explore funky new directions and stretch themselves after making a stir in 2012 with their rock-fuelled debut Boys & Girls.

Singer and guitarist Britney Howard gives her most impassioned vocal performances so far as the band from Athens, Alabama, create a potent moonshine of funk, blues and swamp rock.

Highlights include Don't Wanna Fight with its edgy guitar plucking as Britney repeats the title with an almost hysterical intensity. She adopts a falsetto on the loose limbed funk of Future People as the songs builds to a crashing cacophony. Gimme All Your Love is deep fried southern soul with a wail that should earn nods of approval from Robert Plant and Jack White. She shows a sweeter side on the wonky soul of Guess Who, complete with vibes and strings, while Shoegaze has a Rolling Stones swagger about it.

The ballad Miss You opens with the memorable couplet 'I'm gonna miss you and your Mickey Mouse tattoo' and explodes with raw passion. With a bare bones accompaniment and odd changes of tempo, Over My Head makes for a downbeat, delicate closer.

Sound & Colour is out on April 21 on ATO Records. Alabama Shakes play Birmingham O2 Academy on May 13, a gig that promises to be something rather special.

Sony's three-CD compilation **Synth Pop** is a feast of great music from the 1970s and 80s when synth was king and lots of people with odd haircuts used a keyboard rather than a guitar to craft some brilliant pop records. So Donna Summer's (and Giorgio Moroder's) hugely influential I Feel Love shares the limelight with Gary Numan, The Human League, Ultravox, Visage, New Order, Soft Cell, Yazoo and Art Of Noise. Depeche Mode, Bowie and Kraftwerk are glaring omissions whilst Spandau Ballet and Aztec Camera, good as they are, don't fit the brief.

Fans of Nick Cave or even Siouxsie Sioux can luxuriate in the mellow vocals of **Nadine Shah** on her second album, **Fast Food** (Apollo/R&S Records), with tracks that border upon goth cabaret. There's also a hint of gothic about **Strange Trails** by **Lord Huron** (Play It Again Sam), although these country and folk influenced guitar-driven songs revel in a reverb-drenched tumbleweed ghost town feel. Songs like Dead Man's Hand and Meet Me In The Woods hint at dark deeds and these grim prairie tales have a certain allure when delivered by singer and songwriter Ben Schneider. You would find Frozen Pines on the jukebox in the Twin Peaks diner.

The 1960s family group **The Cowsills**, inspiration for The Partridge Family, had million-selling hits in their US homeland but remain virtually unknown in the UK. Much of their output was twee but their self-titled 1967 album (reissued by Now Sounds) does have several fine examples of summer-of-love sunshine pop, particularly US top five hit The Rain, The Park And Other Things. The CD includes bonus tracks, mono versions and a 24-page booklet to bring 60s music fans up to speed with pop's answer to the Von Trapps.

Before **Demis Roussos** became associated with 1970s dinner parties thanks to such middle-of-the-Med hits as Forever And Ever and Mike Leigh's play Abigail's Party, he sang with Euro prog rockers Aphrodite's Child. His own concept album (reissued by RPM), **On The Greek Side Of My Mind**, is the link between the band and his solo career. It begins with Roussos spouting Lotus eater mumbo jumbo then exercising his helium tenor over Gregorian-like chants, before settling into a groove of psychedelic Grecian folk pop. We Shall Dance hints at the style of warbling that was to bring him fame.

Express & Star Shop

GARDEN KNEELER

Take the strain out of gardening with this comfy garden kneeler. Features a robust steel tubing frame with a raised, soft kneeling platform of polypropylene foam, and arms at just the right height to assist you in getting back up without causing back strain.

For those jobs where you need a little extra height, just turn the kneeler over for a comfy seat or handy step. Ideal for both garden and DIY jobs, the garden kneeler folds flat for easy storage.

Approximate width 58.5cm (23ins).

SOLAR CHERUB

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Paedophile could have adopted, court is told

A NURSERY worker came close to adopting a four-year-old boy before being exposed as an internet paedophile, a court heard.

Bachelor Anthony Horne, from Hednesford, had been cleared for adoption by social services – until police carried out a raid at his home looking for child pornography.

Officers seized a laptop and desktop computer that was found to contain more than 750 indecent photos and movies of children, including 142 of the most vile category A. Horne had claimed he was trying to catch paedophiles.

But at Stafford Crown Court, Mr Alexander Barnfield, prosecuting, said: "What the computers did reveal was use of chat rooms, access to channels of photographs and evidence of searching for images of children, mainly young boys with sexual contact with adults."

The court heard in 2012, Horne, who lived with his parents, had applied to adopt a child. Once social services met his parents, he was approved and a four-year-old boy was considered for placement with him.

"Social services say in a statement they had no suspicions," said Mr Barnfield. "That's now changed and he has been removed from any such register."

Horne, aged 30, of St Andrews Close, Hednesford, admitted six charges of making indecent images of children and was given a three-year community order to undergo a sex offender treatment programme. He was also given a six month curfew and ordered to register as a sex offender for the next five years.

Mr Paul Hiatt, defending, said Horne, a university graduate, had lost his job at the nursery as a result. He was of previous good character and suffered from anxiety and depression. His aim was to become a writer and he was in the process of writing a book.

Arboretum work to start

Computer generated image of the Remembrance Centre

WORK on the multi-million pound transformation of the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield will start this summer.

This latest image shows how the Remembrance Centre will look as part of the £15.7 million scheme.

The arboretum, in Alrewas, has been raising funds over the past five years to improve visitor facilities.

The fundraising campaign, launched by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, has passed £10m, meaning work on the new facilities for up to 500,000 visitors per year, can start in the summer. Cash has been awarded through Staffordshire County Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund with the latest £650,000 donation from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.

The building work, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2016, will include a new Remembrance Centre with dedicated education facilities to cater for 25,000 schoolchildren a year.

Improvements will also be made to the reception area, restaurant, café and shop.

A further £5.3m is needed to complete the project. To support the campaign visit www.justgiving.com/NMA-Future-Foundations-Appeal

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Lake Como, St Moritz and the Bernina Express

Pick of the week

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £819

Explore one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, plus some stunning sights of northern Italy and Switzerland.

The delights of Lake Como are many and varied. One of the highlights will be a private boat trip and tour of the beautiful 18th century Villa del Balbianello, one of the finest villas surrounding the lake. This is followed by a visit to the exclusive resort of Bellagio, often described as the most beautiful town in Italy.

Enjoy a contrasting day of spectacular scenery and Swiss engineering. Firstly ascend to Tirano to board the Bernina Express, one of the slowest express trains in the world, travelling to the summit at Ospizio Bernina before descending to the chic resort of St Moritz, where there is time for a spot of window shopping or to explore at leisure.

A guided tour of the old town is included at Bergamo in northern Italy. Centred around the Piazza Vecchia, it's main square is a wonderful collection of medieval and Renaissance buildings and the cobbled streets are lined with a wealth of traditional shops.

Nearby Lake Maggiore's most attractive lakeside town Stresa is visited. Take a stroll along its impressive palm-lined promenade and enjoy the lovely views across the lake to the Borromean islands.

The town of Lugano in Switzerland is also a delight to explore. It's centred around the cafe-lined main square – ideal for people watching. Alternatively stroll around the twisting lanes of the old town or network of shops.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Single journey on the Bernina Express
- Lake cruise to Bellagio
- Guided tour of Bergamo
- Entrance and guided tour of Villa del Balbianello
- Visits to Lake Maggiore, St Moritz and Lugano
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Yorkshire Cruise and Steam

Three days departing August 14

PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway
- Cruise on the Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales
- Visits to Holmfirth, Skipton, Grassington and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Four days departing August 28

PRICE FROM £269

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House
- Visits to Ryde, Godshill, Yarmouth and The Needles Park at Alum Bay
- Tour and wine tasting at the Rosemary Vineyard
- Entrance to Ventnor Botanic Gardens and a cream tea
- Free time in Cowes
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Norfolk Gardens and The Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill grounds tour followed by a cream tea and lavender scones
- Visit to the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham Gardens
- Visit to Cambridge
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London

Two days departing August 22

PRICE FROM £115

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to the Elvis exhibition at the O2
- Free time in central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Saturday Night Theatre by rail

Two days departures most weekends

PRICE FROM £159.95

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the "from" price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

London Summer Days

Five days departing August 17

PRICE FROM £399.95

- Return coach travel
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Tower Guoman hotel
- Excursion to Windsor
- Optional excursion to Hampton Court Palace and Richmond
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Jersey

Four to eight days
Departures June to December

PRICE FROM £295

- Return flights
- Bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Mayfair or Metropole hotel in St Helier
- Option to upgrade to half-board for a supplement
- Return airport to hotel transfers in Jersey
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Buckingham Palace

Day trip departing August 9 and Sept 13

PRICE FROM £59

- Return coach travel
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace

Two and four-day trips to Buckingham Palace are also available

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Normandy by Eurostar

Five days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £499

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Rouen
- Visits to the Bayeux Tapestry, Benedictine Palace and the port of Honfleur
- Visit to Arromanches and the second World War D-Day beaches
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by RivieraTravel (ABTA V4744)

Sicily

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £939

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation in four-star hotels
- Guided tours of Valley of the Temples, Piazza Armerina and Monreale's medieval cathedral
- Visits to Palermo, Taormina, Mount Etna and Siracusa
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Iceland
Reykjavík and the Northern Lights

Four days various departure dates
November 2015 to March 2016

PRICE FROM £549

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation in a choice of hotels
- City tour of Reykjavík
- Search for the Northern Lights tour*
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

**Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon and sightings cannot be guaranteed*
Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Mid-terraced home is beautifully presented

DECEPTIVE from the front, 10 Price Street, Cannock is an improved and well-equipped traditional-style two-bed mid-terrace which is beautifully presented throughout.

It is for sale through Boot & Son at £110,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, a through lounge/dining room with a steel spiral staircase with hardwood steps, balustrade and handrail, French windows to the rear garden and laminate flooring.

The kitchen has been re-fitted and is part-tiled. It has white units, contrasting working surfaces, laminate flooring and spotlighting.

Bedroom one has built-in wardrobes, the bathroom is part-tiled with a white suite incorporating a sunken Jacuzzi bath and pine floor. Outside is a hard landscaped garden with a garden store and brick summer house/store. Call 01543 505454 or visit www.bootandson.co.uk

Extended residence on a substantial plot

AN imposing, extended detached on a substantial plot, 70 Long Lane, Great Wyrley is ideally placed for commuting. It is for sale with Paul Carr at £340,000 with no chain.

With double glazing and central heating it has a porch, entrance hall, dining room with attractive bay window and feature fireplace.

There is also a spacious extended rear lounge/family room with a feature fireplace and French doors leading to the rear garden, a well appointed, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility room and ground floor shower room.

To the first floor there are four good sized bedrooms and the family bathroom. There is a spacious carport and two garages.

Call 01922 701001 or visit www.paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

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Ravenhill Ward Social Club, 101 Armitage Road, Rugeley	10.00 a.m	10.00 a.m
60 School Lane, Chase Terrace	10.45 a.m	10.45 a.m
48 Pendle Hill, Hednesford	11.30 a.m	11.30 a.m
212 Bradbury Lane, Pye Green, Hednesford	12.00 p.m.	12.00 p.m.
81 Albert Street, Broomhill	12.30 p.m	12.30 p.m
339 Longford Road, Cannock	1.15 p.m	1.15 p.m
23 Littlewood Road, Cheslyn Hay	2.00 p.m	2.00 p.m
207 Cannock Road, Chadsmoor 3 Cross Street, Cheslyn Hay 5 Cross Street, Cheslyn Hay 246 Bradbury Lane, Pye Green, Hednesford	By Prior Appointment with Boot and Son	
Land to Rear of 30/36 Market Street, Hednesford Site of former British Legion, Bow Street, Rugeley Land to West of Redmoor Lane, Gentleshaw.	By calling at site with auction catalogue to hand	

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LOT 1

81 ALBERT STREET, BROOMHILL, CANNOCK, WS11 5JD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- In need of improvement/ refurbishment
- EPC rating E (45)

GUIDE PRICE £90,000 to £110,000

LOT 2

RAVENHILL WARD SOCIAL CLUB, 101 ARMITAGE ROAD, RUGELEY, WS15 1DF
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Detached purpose built social club
- Constructed C.1960
- Good sized site with good road frontage
- Suitable for variety is uses (subject to planning permission)
- Planning permission applied for conversion to single residential unit
- Overlooking canal at rear
- total gross internal floor area 91m² or thereabouts
- Gas fired central heating installed (Not tested)
- All windows double glazed

GUIDE PRICE £80,000+

LOT 3

207 CANNOCK ROAD, CHADSMOOR, CANNOCK, WS11 5DD
FREEHOLD RETAIL/RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
- Let on lease producing £8,500 P.A.
- Prominently located retails unit with flat above
- Established business tenant (Rent review June 2015)

GUIDE PRICE £85,000+

LOT 4

246 BRADBURY LANE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4EP
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT CURRENTLY PRODUCING £4,160 P.A
- Semi detached house
- some double glazing
- In need of some improvement
- Ideal buy to let
- EPC rating TBC

GUIDE PRICE £40,000+

LOT 5

339 LONGFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 1NG
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (31)

GUIDE PRICE £90,000 - £110,000

LOT 6

48 PENDLE HILL, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1LW
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached dormer style house
- Two/three bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- Part double glazed
- In need of comprehensive refurbishment
- EPC rating E (39)

GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £140,000

LOT 7

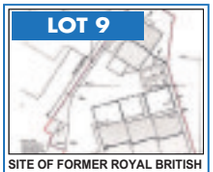
LAND TO WEST OF REDMOOR LANE, GENTLESHAW
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Pasture land
- Extending to 1:00 acre or thereabouts
- Crossed by Shaw Brook
- Road frontage and gated access from Redmoor Road

GUIDE PRICE £10,000 - £20,000

LOT 8

23 LITTLEWOOD ROAD, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7EU
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Attractive semi detached cottage
- Standing on good size corner plot
- Ample off road parking
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- In need of some repair and improvement
- EPC rating tbc

GUIDE PRICE £135,000+



LOT 9

SITE OF FORMER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BOW STREET, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Freehold residential development site
- Good sized site having the benefit of planning permission for the erection of a terrace of 3 houses together with one detached house
- Site area 0.183 Acres or thereabouts as called by Promap software.

GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £150,000

LOT 10

3 CROSS STREET, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7DT
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PRODUCING £3,895 P.A
- larger than average inner terraced house
- Gas central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating F (33)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000

LOT 11

5 CROSS STREET, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7DT
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PRODUCING £3,803 P.A
- Larger than average end terraced house
- Gas central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating F (35)

GUIDE PRICE £55,000

LOT 12

LAND TO REAR OF 30 TO 34 MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 5AE
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Residential development site
- With benefit of planning permission to erect four one bedroomed apartments

GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £60,000

LOT 13

212 BRADBURY LANE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4EP
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
- Semi detached house
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas central heating
- In need of some improvement
- Ideal buy to let
- EPC rating D (63)

GUIDE PRICE £40,000+

LOT 14

60 SCHOOL LANE, CHASE TERRACE, WS7 1LD

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Detached house
- Two bedrooms ◆ Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- Requires comprehensive refurbishment or may be suitable for redevelopment (subject to planning permission)
- EPC rating F (28)

GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £150,000

Improved semi ideal as first buy or investment

A DELIGHTFUL improved modern semi-detached home in a popular location, 74 Red Lion Lane, Norton Canes, has well presented accommodation throughout.

Ideal as a first buy, as a family home or as an investment, it is for sale through Marwood Homes at £122,500 with no chain.

It has a porch, an entrance hall, a lounge/diner with a living flame-effect gas fire, a conservatory and a fitted kitchen with splash-back tiling, three bedrooms and a bathroom, gas central heating, a landscaped garden and a gated driveway.Call 01543 500700 or visit www.marwoodhomes.com

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Link-detached property is in perfect position for commuting

OFFERED with no chain for a swift sale, this modern-style link-detached property in Cannock Road, Burntwood is ideally placed for commuting and is for sale through Chariot Estates at £220,000.

Well presented throughout, it has an entrance hall with stairs off, WC, a lounge with a marble effect fireplace, a dining room with sliding patio doors to the rear, a kitchen with gas hob, electric oven with extractor fan, tiled flooring and co-ordinated splash-back tiling, conservatory, three bedrooms, a shower room, extended garage, utility and a rear garden.

For further information contact Chariot Estates on 01543 686877 or visit www.chariotestates.co.uk

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Independent Estate Agents

NEW

HEATH HAYES

Langholm Drive

- A Beautifully Presented Three Bedroom Link Detached Property, GCH, DG, Entrance Porch, Spacious Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room/Study, Family Bathroom, Garage, ORP, Enclosed Rear Garden

£166,950

NEW

BURNTWOOD

Elunda Grove

- A 3 bedroom town house in need of updating benefiting from having an entrance porch, hallway, good sized kitchen/diner, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, fore and rear gardens and no chain

£112,950

NEW

GREAT WYRLEY

Norton Lane

- A Two Double Bedroom Detached Bungalow With Small Holding To The Rear, GCH, DG, Porch, Hall, Spacious Bathroom, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Detached Garage, Ample ORP, Approx 3rd Of An Acre Of Land With Potential To Develop

£265,000

EN-SUITE

CHASE TERRACE

Biddulph Park

- A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Park Home With En-Suite & Parking GCH, DG, Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, En-Suite, Bathroom

£119,950

REDUCED

CANNOCK

Huntington Terrace Road

- A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property In Need Of Some Refurbishment
- D/Glazing, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms, Rear Garden, Parking and No Onward Chain

£82,500

NEW & SOLD

BROWNHILLS

Mayfields Drive

- A beautifully presented two bedroom semi-detached property offered with no chain enabling a swift sale. GCH, DG, hallway, lounge, beautiful fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, parking,

£125,000

CHAIN FREE

BURNTWOOD

High Street

- An Extended 4 Bedroom Traditional Detached Family Home, GCH, DG, Porch, Hall, Lounge & Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bathroom, Guest W.C, Garage & No Onward Chain

£265,000

NEW

CHASE TERRACE

Princess Street

- A Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property With No Chain, GCH, Double Glazing, Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Rear

£115,000

NEW & SOLD

BURNTWOOD

Chase Vale

- A Beautifully Presented Two Double Bedroom Link-Detached Bungalow, GCH, DG, Hall, Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Re-Fitted Shower Room, Separate Garage, Rear Garden, No Upward Chain

£194,950

EXTENDED

BURNTWOOD

Blackthorne Avenue

- An Extended & Well Presented 3 Bedroom Link-Detached Family Home, GCH, DG, Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen, Utility, Study/ Bedroom 4, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden & Parking.

£187,950

NEW & SOLD

CHASE TERRACE

Biddulph Park

- A Re-Furbished 2 Bedroom Mobile Home Offered With No Onward Chain
- New GCH, DG, Re-fitted dining kitchen, Shower room,Lounge, parking, gardens

£89,950

NO CHAIN

CHASE TERRACE

Ironstone Road

- A Well Presented Two Double Bedroom Detached Bungalow With No Onward Chain, GCH, DG, Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Sitting/Dining Room, En-Suite, Re-Fitted Bathroom, Superb

£225,000

IDEAL 1ST BUY

CHASE TERAACE

Railway Lane

- A Two Bedroom Mid Terraced property, DG, Entrance Porch, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Fore & Rear Gardens, Ideal 1st Time Buy

£110,000

NEW

BURNTWOOD

The Ridgeway

A Deceptively Spacious Four Double Bedroom Split Level Bungalow

Newly Fitted Boiler, D/Glazing, Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Ample Parking and Rear Garden.

£199,950

SOLD

BURNTWOOD

Chase Road

- A Beautifully Presented & Upgraded 2 Bedroom Terraced Property, New GCH, D/G, Lounge, Country Style Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom, Superb Rear Garden & No Onward Chain

£114,950

GARAGE

BURNTWOOD

Deerfold Crescent

- An Extended Four Bedroom Dorma Style Semi Detached Property, GCH, DG, L Shaped Dining Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Family Bathroom, Spacious Shower Room, Rear Garden, Garage, Parking

£214,950

EXTENDED

CHASE TERRACE

Morley Road

- A Well Extended 4 Bedroom Dorma Style Property, GCH, DG, Porch, Hall, D.S Shower Room, 3 Reception Rooms, Dining Room, B Kitchen, Utility, D.S Bedroom, Bathroom, ORP, Garage To

£259,950

NEW & LET

HEATH HAYES

Almond Close

- A Two Double Bedroom Town House, GCH, DG, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Rear Garden, Parking for Two Cars, Sorry No Pets/Smokers or DSS

£550 PCM

NEW & LET

BURNTWOOD

Highfield Avenue

- A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property, GCH, DG, Hallway, Breakfast Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Shower Room, Separate W.C, Three Bedrooms, ORP, Garage, Fore

£600 PCM

NEW & LET

HEDNESFORD

Mount Street

- A Beautiful Modern & Refurbished One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat, GCH, DG, Kitchen, Lounge, Shower Room, Ample Parking To The Rear, Garage, Utility, Rear Garden, Available Now, EER C

£495 PCM

AVAILABLE NOW

CHASE TERRACE

Clinton Crescent

- A Two Double Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow, GCH, DG, Porch, Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom, Garage, Off Road parking, Cul-De-Sac Location, Sorry No Pets, Dhss Or Smokers

£650 PCM

NEW & LET

HEATH HAYES

Primrose Meadow

A Modern Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property, E7 Heating, D/G, Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom, Enclosed Rear Garden, Parking for 1 Car, No Pets/ Smokers or DSS

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11 LOVE LANE PARK HOMES, LOVE LANE, RUGELEY

REFURBISHED ONE BEDROOM PARK HOME
Situated In Well Maintained Site Convenient For Local Facilities

- Entrance lobby
- Open plan lounge/ kitchen
- Bathroom
- Bedroom
- Fully double glazed
- LPG central heating
- Garden & decked terrace
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- For persons aged 50 and over

£435 pcm

Awaiting Photo

6 LOVE LANE PARK HOMES, LOVE LANE, RUGELEY

NEWLY REFURBISHED ONE BEDROOM PARK HOME
Situated In Well Maintained Park Home Development Convenient For Facilities Locally

- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Shower room
- Bedroom
- LPG central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Off road parking
- Gardens & decked terrace
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- For persons aged 50 and over

£435 pcm

18 KINROSS AVENUE, HEDNESFORD

WELL APPOINTED DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
Located In Sought After Residential Area

- Lounge & dining area
- Kitchen
- Master bedroom with dressing area & en-suite
- Three further bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Off road parking
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers
- EPC Rating: D (58)

£850 pcm

12 LEASIDE AVENUE, HANDSACRE

THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACED HOUSE

- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Side verandah
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC Rating: C (73)

£500 pcm

FLAT 2, 1-7 PARK ROAD, CANNOCK

SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT
Convenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Electric heating
- Parking space
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC Rating: E (53)

£500 pcm

THE MANSE, 53 DUNDALK LANE, CHESLYN HAY

SPACIOUS WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Three reception rooms
- Cloakroom with WC
- Kitchen
- Four bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Detached garage
- Sorry no smokers, pets or DSS
- EPC Rating: tbc

£800 pcm

40A OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED SELF CONTAINED ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
Located In Much Sought After Residential Area With Views Of Cannock Park To Rear

- Entrance hall
- Landing
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Double bedroom
- Shower room
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- One car parking space
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC Rating: C (76)

£450 pcm

2 FOUNTAIN COURT, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION
Located On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Utility room
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Fully double glazed
- Communal grounds & parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£575 pcm plus service charge

16 FREMANTLE DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM MID MEWS HOUSE
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: tbc

£550 pcm

14A CHAPEL STREET, NORTON CANES

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED TWO BEDROOM END MEWS HOUSE

- Dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Guests cloakroom
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£550 pcm

12 CHAPEL STREET, NORTON CANES

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED TWO BEDROOM END MEWS HOUSE

- Dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Guests cloakroom
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£550 pcm

5 RICKYARD PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED TWO STOREY TWO BEDROOMED BARN CONVERSION
Located On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Open plan lounge/ kitchen
- Landing
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Oil fired central heating
- Communal grounds
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: B(82)

£595 pcm

53 ROWLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

REFURBISHED FOUR BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Guests WC
- Four bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no pets or smokers
- EPC rating: D(68)

£575 pcm

5 BEECH TREE COURT, BEECH TREE LANE, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT
LOCATED IN POPULAR DEVELOPMENTConvenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Phone entry system
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (79)

£495 pcm

7 WATERSMEAD CLOSE, WIMBLEBURY

WELL PRESENTED TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Popular Cul-de-sac

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Semi detached garage
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Sorry no DSS, smokers or pets
- EPC rating: C (73)

£595 pcm

RICS

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PROPERTY

£189,950 price tag on four-bed terraced home

A SPACIOUS four-bed terraced house in Meyrick Road, Stafford with traditional features is for sale through Goodchilds at £189,950.

With gas central heating it has an entrance hall with Minton flooring, living room with a cast iron fireplace, dining room with an original cast iron fireplace, extended kitchen/ breakfast room with tiled splash-backs, spotlights, floor tiling and original cupboards.

The home also includes a cellar, three first floor bedrooms and a bathroom, a second floor master bedroom with a cast iron fireplace and exposed timbers, a garden and an option to rent a garage.

For further information contact Goodchilds on 01785 221799 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com

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Take it away

Take That preview – Page 69

Thea Gilmore

See Page 69

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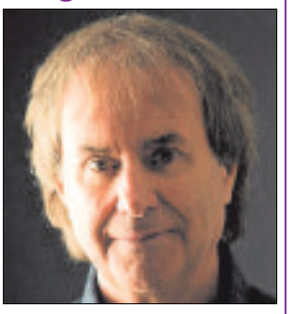
Chris de Burgh



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
Be among the first to hear live renditions of Chris de Burgh's 20th studio album The Hands of Man that captures his lyrical style but with a nod to 21st century techniques.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Andy Parsons

Saturday, 8pm
Gatehouse, Stafford
Andy's fifth show 'Live and Unleashed – But Naturally Cautious' sees the star of BBC2's 'Mock The Week' and 'Live At The Apollo' hitting the road again delivering more sharp comedy.
www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Beyond The Barricades 2015

Saturday, 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, W'ton
Recreating original musical hit songs with amazing authenticity, this cast of past principal performers from Les Miserables present a blockbusting two-hour show.
Visit **www.grandtheatre.co.uk**

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Dames Of Darkness Festival 5
Sat, Sun at 2pm - 1am, £25 - £45
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Twenty One Pilots
Wed at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Ultimate Genesis
Sat at 6.30pm, £14.62
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Smiths Indeed
Fri at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Gryphon
Tue at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Terry Reid
Wed at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

UK Subs
Thu at 7.30pm, £12 - £14
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Chris de Burgh
Wed at 7.30pm, £40 - £60
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

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Pretty Vicious
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Belle and Sebastian
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The Maccabees
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The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Into The Shadows
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £16
Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

ABBA – Swede Dreamz
Sat at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

UB40 – Labour of Love
Fri at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Midge Ure and India Electric Co
Wed at 7.30pm, £17.75 - £18.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Vamps
Fri at 7pm, £33.74 - £37.10
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Dr Hook
Thu at 7pm, £27.50 - £29.50
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

Voca People
Tue at 7.30pm, £20 - £21
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Merrymouth
Sat at 8pm, £14 - £16
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Irish Session
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Nizlopi
Tue at 7pm, £15
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Brewood Acoustic Club – Bill Caddick
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Brewood Cricket Club, ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

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John Tams & Barry Coope
Mon at 7.30pm, £13
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm,
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN. Call 01543 491570

RNB & SOUL

Boyz II Men
Tue at 7pm, £34.87
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Clare Maguire
Fri at 8pm, £7
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

JAZZ & BLUES

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Sat at 8pm, £7.50 - £15
Lichfield Guildhall, WS13 6LU. Call 01543 262223

Duets for Django
Fri at 7.30pm, £14
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

ReedBass
Fri at 5pm, Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Harp Live Jazz (May)
Sun at 12.30pm, Tue at 8.30pm, Free
The Harp Hotel, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF. Call 01902 374381

The Rescue Blues
Fri at 7pm, £5.50
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Beyond the Barricades 2015
Sat at 7.30pm, £18.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

A Night at the Oscars
Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

NewGrass Cutters
Fri at 8pm, £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Julian Lloyd Webber Presents
Tue at 7.30pm, £22.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

The Ukulele Orchestra
Sun at 3pm, £19.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Organ Concert
Mon at 1pm, £6
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Dvorák's Cello Concerto
Wed at 2.30pm, £6.50 - £21.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Hélène Grimaud in Recital
Thu at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £35
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Dirty Dancing
Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Sing-a-Long-a Frozen
Sat at 11.30am, 3pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

An Evening with Pam Ayres
Thu at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Fashionably Late by Ginny Davis
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £14
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Ghost
Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £21.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Pygmalion
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £12
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

Oh What A Lovely War
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Births, Deaths & Marriages
Mon at 7pm, £4 - £6
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Sister Act
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £15 - £18
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Sat, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Sister Act
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £15 - £18
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

The Long Road
Sat at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm, £6 - £11
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Chewing The Fat
Thu at 8pm, £9 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Printmakers
Sat at 8pm, £10 - £12
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Birmingham Cabaret Festival
Thu at 8pm, £10
The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY. Call 0121 200 1892

COMEDY

Andy Parsons Live and Unleashed
Sat at 8pm, £15 - £15.75
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Paul Foot
Sat at 7pm, £13.50 - £13.75
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Jack Dee's Help Desk
Wed at 6.45pm, £18.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Henning Wehn
Thu at 7.30pm, £14.50 - £16.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

OTHER EVENTS

Haden Hill House Anniversary
Sun at 2pm - 5.30pm,
Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. Call 01384 569444

The Sooty Show presents
Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 4pm, £11.95 - £16.25
Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU. Call 0844 880 7667

Guy Day's: Hints & Tips
Tue, Wed at 11am, £23
Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE. Call 01952 852100

Evening Scenic Specials
Sat at 7pm, £8 - £13
Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR. Call 01299 403816

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Take That relish their threedom

Everything Changes — Take That soar over the heads of their fans in a spectacular concert, picture by Andrew Whitton

AND then there were three... the new trio version of Take That promise a spectacular series of shows at the Genting Arena, starting on Monday.

Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald will play a total of seven concerts at the mega venue near Birmingham, also including Tuesday, Thursday, next Friday and Saturday, before returning on June 22 and 23.

Take That are the UK's most successful live act ever.

They have had eight number one albums, 15 number one singles, sold over 30 million albums, won six Ivor Novello awards, eight BRITs and sold over seven million concert tickets.

Minus Jason Orange and Robbie Williams, the band have returned with aptly-titled new album III and the hit These Days. They are embarking on a 24-date tour, four years after their record-breaking Progress Live wowed their fans.

It will be worth turning up in time to catch support act, the BRIT-nominated Ella Henderson, who hit the number one spot with her debut album Chapter One and had hits with the singles Ghost and Glow.

Thea haunted by her songs

IT will surely one day be a Trivial Pursuit question: Name the UK artist who first hit the top 40 with her 14th album? It was Thea Gilmore with her 2013 release Regardless.

Thea's slow burning career has seen her garner more and more fans since she first emerged as an 18-year-old with her debut Burning Dorothy.

Now, 17 years on, album number 15 Ghosts & Graffiti is a compilation of four new songs, alongside six newly-recorded versions of previous favourites and her recent run of radio hits.

The album features collaborations with fantasy writer Neil Gaiman, cult New York singer-songwriter Joan As Policewoman (Joan Wasser), folk-rockers The Waterboys, folk legend Joan Baez, punk poet John Cooper Clarke, Scottish singer-songwriter King Creosote (Kenny Anderson) and acclaimed Mancunian band I Am Kloot.

In General Election year, she also nails her political beliefs to the mast with My Voice, performed with Billy Bragg.

Thea, who starts her UK tour at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, said: "I didn't set out to make so many albums. There was no master plan, I just had things to say so I found a way to say them.

Now I see every record as a snapshot of that particular time in my life. It's like a haunting, the songs are the ghosts of my past."

Tickets cost £24.50 with fees. For further details see the www.thsh.co.uk website.

Little Voice will be heard again at Rep

TWO of Britain's favourite soap actors are in a new production of Jim Cartwright's popular play The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from May 15 to 30.

The Olivier award-winning play about the shy but hugely talented Little Voice stars Coronation Street's Vicky Entwistle and Chris Gascoyne, who played Janice Battersby and Peter Barlow. In the demanding role of LV is Nancy Sullivan from the West End production of Les Miserables. Vicky Entwistle plays her blowsy mum and Chris Gascoyne is agent Ray Say, who wants to cash in on LV's impersonations of such divas as Judy Garland and Shirley Bassey.

Ray patched up to play new date

AMERICAN soft rock specialists Dr Hook, featuring iconic eyepatch wearing frontman Ray Sawyer, return to live work following Ray's accident that postponed the band's March Hooked on Hits tour. The 78-year-old broke his arm in a fall

One of the rescheduled shows includes the Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, May 14. The now solo Dennis Locorriere was the main vocalist for most of the band's hits, but Ray Sawyer —who lost an eye in a car accident in 1967 — also contributed vocals, most memorably on Cover Of The Rolling Stone. Expect to hear all the hits, including Sylvia's Mother.

Cabaret festival at pub theatre

BIRMINGHAM'S first cabaret festival is going to take place during the second half of May.

The Old Joint Stock theatre pub at Temple Row West in the city centre is the venue for acts ranging from comedy to circus via music, drag and burlesque.

It kicks off with Edinburgh Fringe hit Boris and Sergey's Vaudevillian Adventure, an adults only puppet show, on May 15. Other highlights will inlcude gentleman juggler Matt Ricardo on May 16, Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer on May 22 and The Weatherman by Kiki Lovechild on May 27. For full line up see www.oldjointstock.co.uk website.

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Silk Roots restaurant and the Old Mitre Inn, on Bursnips Road, Essington

Larger parties are catered for among the 160 covers

The restaurant is also set out to allow privacy for its diners

One of the eatery's delicious offerings

There are 10 combination dishes to choose from

Silk appeal firmly rooted in word of mouth on this handy eatery

INDIAN restaurant proprietors will tell you they rely on word of mouth to attract custom. It's a policy that is working very well for Nazrul Islam.

By Mark Shipp

He has a loyal fanbase, having built up a reputation at Balti Nights in Willenhall, and these customers have helped spread the word since the move to the Old Mitre pub just under a year ago.

Located along Bursnips Road, Essington, on the main stretch of the A462, the eatery could not be more ideally placed for passing trade and is perfect for diners travelling from the Wolverhampton, Bloxwich, Walsall and Cannock areas.

A back-to-back winner of the best Midlands restaurant title while at Balti Nights, Nazrul has more than 15 years experience in the restaurant trade and is keen on helping out good causes, too, with around £40,000 raised over the years for children's charities and Acorns Hospice.

"We worked hard for 15 years or so, so when we came here, a lot of people followed us," said Nazrul. "I am honoured by the support shown by customers."

After buying the premises from Enterprise Inns, Nazrul quickly set about transforming it into Silk Roots and around 90 people turned out for its opening. The Old Mitre still stands, however, and serves traditional pub fare. In fact, Nazrul is keen to bring back its glory days.

"The Old Mitre had a good reputation and we want to bring that back," he said.

Tastefully decorated, Silk Roots caters for 160 diners, with corporate bookings and private parties accepted. Parking is plentiful, with spaces across the road in addition to the restaurant's own car park.

The restaurant can be accessed via the pub, and diners can sit with a drink while waiting for a table. Pub lunches are also served.

Appetite

My partner and I ventured on a midweek night and after a drink to whet the appetite, poppadums were the order of the day. This led to a novelty for me, as, while these came with the traditional dips, it is usually assumed one knows what these are. Here, staff took the time to explain what all these dips were – a pleasant, personal touch that only added to the experience.

A mixed starter was dished up for us next, with lamb chops, kebabs and bhajis, which, while tasty, only served to fill us up before the mains arrived. We gave them a good go, though, and again there was an extensive offering. My own choice was Combination Number 9, or chicken mital and chikken tikka malay to give it its proper name. The medium dishes complemented each other well, while my partner's option was the chicken passanda, creamy and served with ground almonds and pistachios.

The beauty is, with the starters included, the meals alone would amount to just £20, so despite a bulging waistline, there's not a big dent left in the bank balance.

Alas, there was no room to choose from the dessert list that included apple pie and chocolate fudge cake.

In the run-up to the restaurant's first anniversary, diners can enjoy four courses from the a la carte menu for £9.95 on a Sunday and a Monday. There is a takeaway and delivery service. To book, call 01922 276900 or visit www.silkrootsrestaurant.co.uk

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CHOICE

Katherine Jenkins

VE Day 70: A Party to Remember
BBC1, 8.30pm
Chris Evans hosts a live concert from Horse Guards Parade in London as part of the national celebrations for the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Among those taking the stage are Alfie Boe, Elaine Paige, Chas and Dave, Collabro, Gregory Porter and Katherine Jenkins, performing songs that reflect the mood of the nation at the time. Other singers, some of who are backed by a live big band, are Alexander Armstrong, Jamelia, Pixie Lott and Rebecca Ferguson, plus Status Quo. There are dance tributes from Diversity and the Strictly professionals, and readings from actors including Adrian Lester, Bernard Cribbins, Ian Lavender, Jane Horrocks, Julia Sawalha, Laurence Fox and Nigel Havers.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Athletics: Great CityGames Manchester. Coverage of the seventh staging of the event. **3.00** Final Score. **5.10** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying – Highlights.

6.20 BBC News.

6.35 Regional Programme.

6.45 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz. Celebrity teams Henry Kelly and Matthew Kelly, Tom O'Connor and Jenny Powell, Nina Myskow and Gyles Brandreth and Ulrika Jonsson and Nick Hancock try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.

7.35 Atlantis. When Jason is caught by Pasiphae's troops, the heroes know they must do all they can to save him before he is lost for ever, so Aeson undertakes a mission to rescue his son.

8.20 The National Lottery Live. Jenni Falconer introduces the results of this week's draws, with Madness frontman Suggs on hand to press the button and release the balls.

8.30 VE Day 70: A Party to Remember. Chris Evans hosts a live concert from Horse Guards Parade in London as part of the national celebrations for the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Among those taking the stage are Alfie Boe, Elaine Paige, Chas and Dave, Collabro, Gregory Porter and Katherine Jenkins, performing songs that reflect the mood of the nation at the time. Other singers, some of who are backed by a live big band, are Alexander Armstrong, Jamelia, Pixie Lott and Rebecca Ferguson, plus Status Quo. There are dance tributes from Diversity and the Strictly professionals.

10.25 BBC News; Weather.

10.45 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Crystal Palace v Manchester United at Selhurst Park and Hull City v Burnley at the KC Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.10 Film: DOA. (1988) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Story of GI Joe. (1945) **8.00** How We Won the War. (R) **8.30** How We Won the War. (R) **9.00** The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. (R) **10.00** Wellington Bomber. (R) **11.00** Churchill: The Nation's Farewell. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Hitchcock's Leading Actors: Talking Pictures. **2.50 Film:** Vertigo. (1958) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **4.55** Flog It! (R) **5.25** Newsnight Special. **5.55** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.25 Dad's Army. Last-ever episode of the wartime comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 BBC Young Dancer 2015. Zoe Ball and Darcey Bussell present the grand final of the talent search from Sadler's Wells. Six dancers have made it through to the last show, and each will perform a solo piece from their repertoire, a duet and a new piece devised for them by some of the UK's leading choreographers. The judging panel is made up of leading directors and choreographers Matthew Bourne, Mavin Khoo, Wayne McGregor, Tamara Rojo, Kenrick Sandy and Alistair Spalding. Last in the series.

9.00 Some People with Jokes. Members of the public who are 60 years of age and over tell their favourite gags to the camera. (R)

9.15 Film: Salmon Fishing in the Yemen. (2011) A British fisheries expert is recruited by an Arab sheik, who believes the sport of salmon fishing can enrich the lives of his people – if only there were fish to catch. The scientist is soon undertaking an ambitious scheme to introduce salmon to the desert, and finds his own government have an interest in the project. Comedy drama based on Paul Torday's novel, with Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt and Kristin Scott Thomas.

10.55 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz with a difference, with Josh Widdicombe, Phill Jupitus, Katherine Ryan and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of K-Folk. (R)

11.40 Film: The Way. (2010) Comedy drama, starring Martin Sheen, Deborah Kara Unger and James Nesbitt.

1.45 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.45** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.45 Film:** Cats & Dogs. (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Reloaded. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers in this special extended episode.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the latest round of the nationwide talent search. A wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judging panel Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams with their unusual skills – with a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance up for grabs at the end of the series.

9.15 Play to the Whistle. Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, comedian Bob Mortimer and Emmerdale star Natalie Anderson join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh on the comedy sports quiz.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: American Gangster. (2007) Fact-based crime drama about 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas and the cop who tried to bring him down in the face of police corruption. Starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Challenge Wanaka. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 The Simpsons. A terrorism scare prompts the people of Springfield to hire a British security consultant, who installs surveillance cameras everywhere. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTi and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTi Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era. (R)

8.00 The World's Most Extreme. An exploration of the most dangerous rivers on the planet, including the Panama Canal and the Congo River, where white-water rafters try to beat undefeated rapids.

9.00 Film: Robin Hood. (2010) An archer fighting in Richard the Lionheart's crusading army returns home to England and assumes the identity of a nobleman killed in battle. His new-found status draws him into a dangerous conflict with members of the newly crowned King John's court, and a traitorous knight plots to aid the French in conquering England. Ridley Scott's medieval adventure, starring Russell Crowe.

11.45 Lee Mack Live. The comedian's live show, performed at London's Bloomsbury Theatre, in which he touches on bizarre subjects, from pasty marketing to grandmothers snorting a powdered dessert. (R)

12.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.45** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.45** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.45 Film:** Attack on the Iron Coast. (1968) **2.35 Film:** Columbo: A Trace of Murder. (1997) **4.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.30** Britain's Horror Homes. (R)

6.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £20,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R)

7.25 5 News Weekend.

7.30 NCIS. Kidnappers strike on Halloween, wounding a marine sergeant and snatching his daughter – leaving the team members wondering why anyone would try to extort money from someone on such a modest salary. As the agents begin searching for a motive, Abby surprises everyone by turning up at the lab in a revealing fancy-dress costume. (R)

8.25 NCIS. The team joins forces with military investigators to ascertain whether terrorists were responsible for an explosion at a golf course in which a marine colonel was killed. (R)

9.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A body is found in the woods, covered in chrome paint. A shard of glass leads Sara and Julie to two rich brothers, who are fighting over their father's collection of classic cars.

10.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A criminal performing community service is suspected of murdering two people – but even after he is caught, the killings continue. (R)

11.05 The NCIS Movie: Judgement Day. The funeral of a special agent in Los Angeles leads Shepard on a covert mission to finish some classified business she began a decade previously in Europe. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** Autopsy: The Last Hours of River Phoenix. (R) **4.00** World's Busiest Hotel. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.05** Don't Tell the Bride **9.05** Live at the Apollo **9.35** Happy Valley **10.35** Family Guy **12.45** Murder in Successville **1.15** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **1.45** Live at the Apollo **2.15** Don't Tell the Bride **3.15** Tatau **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Country at the BBC **12.15** Neil Diamond: Radio 2 Electric Prom **1.20** Wild China **2.20** Top of the Pops: 1980 **3.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.20 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.10** Mr Bean **5.15 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **7.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.05** Crazy Beaches **2.30** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.10 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **1.10 Film:** The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **3.20** Wycliffe **4.25 Film:** Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Inspector Morse **1.20** Wire in the Blood **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Monte Carlo ePrix qualifying session. **12.15** Pawn Stars **1.05** Counting Cars **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Monte Carlo ePrix. **4.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **5.35** Pawn Stars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00 Film:** Goldfinger (1964) **10.20 Film:** Basic (2003) **12.25 Film:** Age of Heroes (2011) **2.20** Whisker Wars **2.45** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Jane the Virgin **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Limitless (2011) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** Rude Tube: Animal Madness **2.30** Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2013 **3.15** 2 Broke Girls **3.40** How I Met Your Mother **4.25** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Fixed Bayonets! (1951) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.45** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **4.30** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **6.50** Congo (1995) **9.00** Priest (2011) **10.45** Scary Movie 2 (2001) **12.20** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **2.05** Flirting with Disaster (1996) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Alexander Armstrong

Sunday Night at the Palladium
ITV, 8pm
Actor, comedian and singer Alexander Armstrong hosts the variety show from the West End theatre, introducing music by violinist Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, and two of America's hottest singing talents – All About That Bass star Meghan Trainor and Josh Groban, whose classical-style voice has helped him shift more than 25 million albums. There's also comedy from Lee Nelson and Rod Woodward, hot moves from Ethiopian acrobatics AAC Boys and dancers Quest Crew, and an energetic performance from the cast of West End musical The Commitments.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** VE Day 70: The Nation Remembers. **1.30** Sunday Politics. **2.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.15** Shark. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix – Highlights.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson is at the Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, where he announces the winner of the first Countryfile Farming Hero and also talks about his own hero, Robert Bakewell, the father of selective breeding. The rest of the team celebrates other farming pioneers past and present, including tractor inventor Harry Ferguson, the men who set up the RSPCA and a man whose efforts gave farmers a voice and helped feed the nation when it was needed the most. With Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison, Anita Rani and Tom Heap.

8.00 The British Academy Television Awards. Graham Norton hosts the annual ceremony celebrating the best of British TV, held at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in London. Shows battling for recognition include Happy Valley, Line of Duty, The Missing and Marvellous, which all have three nominations each, while the entertainment performance category sees Graham himself competing against Ant and Dec, Claudia Winkleman for Strictly and Leigh Francis – better known as alter ego Keith Lemon – for Celebrity Juice. Channel 4 News anchor Jon Snow will be awarded the Bafta Fellowship, celebrating more than 40 years in journalism and broadcasting.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and Manchester City v Queens Park Rangers at the Etihad Stadium.

11.30 Film: The Mothman Prophecies. (2002) A journalist investigates reports of encounters with a moth-like creature that his wife claimed to see before she died. Thriller, with Richard Gere.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** MOTD2 Extra. **2.00** Equestrian: Badminton Horse Trials. **4.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. Gabby Logan investigates whether a person's DNA decides if they will be a winner. **4.30** Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 VE Day 70: The Nation Remembers – Highlights. Today's events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day, beginning with a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, followed by a parade of veterans and a fly-past.

7.00 Britain's Greatest Generation. The extraordinary stories of some of the British men and women who fought or lived through the Second World War, now in their nineties or older. (R)

8.00 Hunters of the South Seas. Will Millard heads to the Trobriand Islands, 150 miles off the east coast of Papua New Guinea, where he discovers a trading network called the Kula Ring. Last in the series.

9.00 Wellington: The Iron Duke Unmasked. First in a two-part portrait of the Duke of Wellington, with Richard E Grant starring in a series of dramatic reconstructions aiming to discover the man behind the public image.

10.00 Modern Times: For Richer For Poorer. Every year, half-a-million new businesses are launched in Britain and 40 per cent of them will be run by couples. Cameras follow four of these brave, enterprising twosomes.

11.00 W1A. Anna is crowned as the Head of Better, and the staff are given the task of announcing the concept to the world at large – which is fine, except none of them know what Better means. (R)

11.30 Film: Smart People. (2008) A misanthropic professor's self-absorption threatens his faltering relationship with a former student. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid, Ellen Page and Thomas Haden Church.

1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **1.05** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.50** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.05 Film:** Mannequin. (1987) Fantasy comedy, starring Andrew McCarthy. **4.50** The Chase. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Celebrity Squares. Noughts-and-crosses game show, with guests Jonathan Ross, Laura Whitmore, Tony Law, Gabby Logan, Nina Conti, Union J and Shappi Khorsandi. Warwick Davis hosts.

8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Actor, comedian and singer Alexander Armstrong hosts the variety show from the West End theatre, introducing music by violinist Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, and two of America's hottest singing talents – All About That Bass star Meghan Trainor and Josh Groban, whose classical-style voice has helped him shift more than 25 million albums. There's also comedy from Lee Nelson and Rod Woodward, hot moves from Ethiopian acrobatics AAC Boys and dancers Quest Crew, and an energetic performance from the cast of West End musical The Commitments.

9.00 Home Fires. Drama about a wartime Women's Institute group. As Frances and Joyce battle for leadership, Pat struggles with her unhappy marriage and Miriam tries to stop David enlisting.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Perspectives: In Charlie Chaplin's Footsteps. Monty Python star Terry Jones, a long-time fan of silent comedy, offers a personal appraisal of the man who arguably changed the face of film comedy in the 1920s.

11.35 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.30 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. (2011) Children's comedy, with Zachary Gordon. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Three in a Bed. At the Maypole Inn Pub and B&B in Skipton, North Yorkshire, former Butlins stand-up comic Malcolm Kilbourne and his wife Sue don't believe in unnecessary frills. Their rivals are perfectionists Ianroy and Melanie McCall of the luxury Wootton Park estate in Warwickshire, and retired Navy Wren Mary Lloyd-Wright and her stepdaughter Cherry Priscott, who own Hooks Cottage in the Dartmoor countryside. The week of competitive hosting features unwelcome surprises beneath the sheets, fancy bottles of water and a stand-off between guests and wildlife.

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead enter the world of micro cars, driving a 1960 Messerschmitt, 1960s bubble cars and the ill-fated Sinclair C5, as well as restoring a Fiat 500.

9.00 Film: Prometheus. (2012) Premiere. A spacecraft is sent to another world, following clues left in ancient artefacts, in search of aliens that may have created the human race. However, the explorers on board discover the extraterrestrials may not be the benevolent creatures they imagined, while the company funding the expedition has its own agenda. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller and Alien prequel, starring Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba.

11.25 Film: Piranha 3DD. (2012) The opening of a water park is turned into a massacre when man-eating fish start feasting on the visitors. Comedy horror, starring Danielle Panabaker and Matt Bush.

1.00 24 Hours in A&E. (R) **1.55 Film:** Naalu Pennungal. (2007) **3.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Toby's Travelling Circus. **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45 Film:** National Security. (2003) Action comedy, starring Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn. **3.25 Film:** Big Momma's House. (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20 Film:** Spider-Man 3. (2007) An alien parasite causes the web-slinging crimefighter's dark side to surface as he seeks revenge on his uncle's killer. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst.

8.00 Film: Grown Ups. (2010) Five friends reunite for the funeral of their high-school basketball coach. However, when they discover they have all acquired the problems and responsibilities that come with adulthood, they decide to spend a weekend at a lake house in a bid to recapture their childhood. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade and Rob Schneider.

10.00 Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.

11.45 Film: Soldiers of Fortune. (2012) Premiere. A group of wealthy thrill-seekers pay big bucks to experience a military-style mission. Action adventure, starring Christian Slater.

1.35 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. The observational documentary returns, this time giving an insight into the work of doctors at Putneymead Group Medical Practice in Putney, south-west London. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **7.10** Top Gear **7.55 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.00** Tatau **11.25** Family Guy **12.10** Murder in Successville **12.40** American Dad! **1.00** Family Guy **1.25** Russell Howard's Good News **1.50** Murder in Successville **2.20** In Deep **2.40** Tatau **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words **8.00** Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? **9.00** Horizon: 40 Years on the Moon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Explosions: How We Shook the World **11.30** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **12.30** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.30** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.30** The Sky at Night **3.00** Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.15 Take Me Out **1.45** Meghan Trainor: The Hot Desk **2.00 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **3.45 Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Best of the Best **9.00 Film:** The Dark Knight (2008) **12.05 Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.00 Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **1.30** Lewis **3.35** Wycliffe **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10 Film:** Hamlet (1990) **1.50** Secret Smile **3.05** Judge Judy **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round three from Thruxton. **6.30** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.30** Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** National Lampoon's European Vacation (1985) **11.05 Film:** Bowfinger (1999) **1.00** River Monsters **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.10 Film:** Jennifer's Body (2009) **1.15** Virtually Famous **2.00** Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 At the Earth's Core (1976) **1.00** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **2.50** Rio (2011) **4.40** City of Ember (2008) **6.30** Runaway Jury (2003) **9.00** The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **10.55** Killing Them Softly (2012) **12.50** A Civil Action (1998) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Death Sentence, Channel 5, 10.55pm

Mild-mannered executive Nick Hume's perfect, peaceful life is destroyed when his oldest son is killed by a street gang. Hume becomes determined to see those responsible pay for their crimes, gaining the sympathy and support of a homicide detective working on the case. However, she begins to question her position as Hume's methods of retribution become increasingly violent. Thriller, starring Kevin Bacon, Kelly Preston and Garrett Hedlund. (2007)

WEDNESDAY

Margin Call, BBC1, 11.15pm

A bitter executive is dismissed from an investment bank, but plans his revenge by handing secret information on the company's fortunes to a junior analyst. When the information is decoded, it reveals that the company is on the brink of a devastating financial crisis, a revelation that is soon spreading throughout the workforce. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Paul Bettany and Jeremy Irons. (2011)

Cape Fear, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

FRIDAY

Cape Fear, ITV, 10.40pm

A psychopathic rapist is released from prison after 14 years and plots revenge on the defence attorney he blames for his imprisonment. Subjecting the lawyer and his family to a terrifying campaign of intimidation, he uses his knowledge of the law to stay untouchable. Martin Scorsese's thriller remake, starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange. (1991)

I Love You, Man, BBC1, 11.50pm

As he prepares for his wedding, estate agent Peter realises there is something missing – a male friend, which he doesn't have, to be his best man. His quest for a suitable candidate leads him to laid-back, hard-drinking Sydney and the pair become inseparable buddies – to the horror of Peter's fiancee. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel. (2009)

(500) Days of Summer, Channel 4, 12.25am

A man looks back on his 500-day-long relationship with the woman he loves, remembering events in a random order. Romantic comedy, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel. (2009)

Honouring the best in British television

Can the TV Baftas outshine their cinematic counterpart? Well, one man adding a little movie glamour to the proceedings is Benedict Cumberbatch, who is now a force to be reckoned with in Hollywood following his Oscar nomination for playing Alan Turing in The Imitation Game.

He's since received his third Leading Actor Bafta nod (and sixth in total) for the role that first gained him international recognition – that of enigmatic super-detective Holmes in Sherlock, the modern reworking of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous tales.

He's up against James Nesbitt for The Missing, and two extraordinary performances as real-life people from Toby Jones and Jason Watkins. Watkins was outstanding in The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries, but the winner should be Jones, whose take on clown and football mascot Neil Baldwin in Marvellous was arguably the TV highlight of 2014.

The Leading Actress category will be very hotly contested, with first-time nominee Georgina Campbell in the running for surprise hit Murdered by My Boyfriend, alongside Keeley Hawes for Line of Duty.

But then the big guns come out. Sheridan Smith has been hotly tipped for her performance in Cilla, which was great – until you realise she didn't look or sound like Cilla Black, the person she was playing.

So, if there's any justice, it will be Sarah Lancashire who wins for her career-best turn in Happy Valley, which would also be her second win in as many years – in 2014 she took home the Supporting Actress trophy for her work in Last Tango in Halifax.

Other luminaries in the running include the ceremony's host, Graham Norton, for his BBC chat show, as well as Matt Berry (Toast of London), Hugh Bonneville (W1A), Claudia Winkleman (Strictly Come Dancing) and Stephen Rea (The Honourable Woman).

Watch out too for Olivia Colman, who is nominated for the fourth consecutive year, this time in the Female Performance in a Comedy Programme for Rev.

We do, however, already know the identity of one winner. The name 'Jon Snow' may now be synonymous with a Game of Thrones character, but the real Jon Snow, ie the Channel 4 newsreader who has spent the past 40 years covering globally important stories, will receive the Bafta Fellowship.

This grand award has previously been handed to the likes of Julie Walters, Michael Palin and David Attenborough, so Snow is in great company.

"I am genuinely overwhelmed by the honour of being awarded a Bafta Fellowship," says Snow. "There is no greater recognition than that of one's own industry.

"I thought at first Bafta must have the wrong Snow… There are several of my cousins they could have chosen. I'm genuinely looking forward to the ceremony. I think my daughters have concluded I've finally done something cool!"

Expect tears and laughter throughout the night as British TV's great and good give each other a good old pat on the back, but try not to get too upset if your personal favourite goes home empty handed.

The British Academy Television Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Episodes

BBC2, 10pm

Showtime's TV-industry satire returns for a fourth season, and with their hopes of a new life overseas now on the back burner, Sean (Stephen Mangan) and Beverly (Tamsin Greig) are dragged back to Hollywood to make six more episodes of the previously cancelled Pucks. 'It's risen, like Jesus. If Jesus was a sitcom that no one watched,' says the show's leading actress Morning Randolph (Mircea Monroe). Meanwhile, Matt (Matt LeBlanc) attends a funeral and discovers that the deceased – the man who looked after his money – had been scamming him for years, to the tune of 32 million dollars, no less. Finally, Carol (Kathleen Rose Perkins) lobbies to run the network after discovering the identity of her new boss.

TUESDAY

Big Brother: Timebomb Live Launch

Channel 5, 9pm

It's back – and it's going to be a blast. As if sharing a house with a group of complete strangers, all with very ëbig' personalities, wasn't tricky enough, this year we're promised that the reality show is going to be extra mischievous, as the contestants place their past, present and future in Big Brother's hands. In fact, BB is going to start to playing with the very concept of time itself – and not just by making viewers think they'll just tune in for a few minutes to check out the latest intake, only to later realise they've been gripped for two hours. Emma Willis takes charge this evening, as she introduces us to Big Brother's class of 2015, and also lets us have a good look around the house, which has had a Mad Men-inspired 1960s makeover.

WEDNESDAY

Inspector George Gently

BBC1, 8pm

Last week, Gently investigated a case that looked like suicide, but turned out to be murder. This week, he does the same thing again although, thankfully, the circumstances are very different. This time, the body is that of Scott Parker, who is found lying on a rubbish pile under the Tyne Bridge, shortly after celebrating his 40th birthday with his best friends Petey and Michael. All Scott had on him was a pawn broker note, a betting slip and the number for Gwendolyn Howard. It turns out he had been pawning items under a false name and was in serious debt – but who is Gwendolyn, and does she hold the key to the mystery? Watch out for a guest appearance by Jim Moir, aka Vic Reeves.

Big Brother: Timebomb Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

The World's Most Expensive Food

Channel 4, 8pm

Like many cities, London is a place of opposites. There are poverty-stricken estates peppered across its expanse, but there are also areas of great wealth too. In fact, it's been estimated that the capital is now home to more billionaires than any other city on the planet. These mega-rich folk may live the kind of lifestyles the rest of us can only dream about, we all have at least one thing in common with them – the need to eat. But what do those with untold millions enjoy? We're guessing that nipping down to their local supermarket isn't on their daily agenda. This two-part programme aims to lift the lid on their habits, as well as offering an insight into the catering companies trying to keep up with their changing appetites.

THURSDAY

Fraud Squad

ITV, 9pm

The documentary series exploring the work of detectives from the City of London Police unit concludes with an insight into an operation to shut down a large-scale bank-cheque fraud empire. Run by a Zimbabwean gang, the scheme involved counterfeiting cheques from thousands of people, government institutions, small businesses, and even a hospice in Scotland. The criminals used an army of 'mules' to cash their fake cheques for a small commission. Funds were then being transferred to Zimbabwe in the form of luxury cars, by a ringleader who viewed his crimes as payback for his native country's colonial grievances against the UK.

FRIDAY

Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites

BBC2, 8pm

New series. The veteran cook shares a selection of her favourite recipes, each inspired by a favourite place. In the first programme, she draws her inspiration from childhood trips to the seaside, preparing goats cheese and shallot tarts with an innovative walnut pastry, considered ideal for a picnic hamper. She moves on to a family favourite – royal crab and cod fishcakes with tomato salsa.

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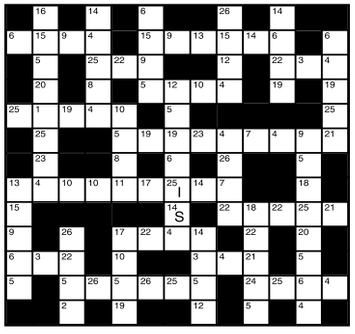
BRAIN GYM No.324

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



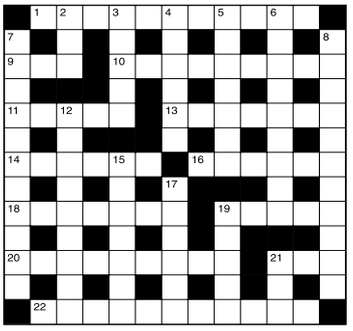
1	14 S
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 I
13	26

SOLUTIONS TO NO. 322:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	S	G	H	T	O	D	N	X	R	A	K	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	Z	C	J	V	Y	W	I	P	B	F	Q	E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Not in top form? (6-5)
9. Also the last of 20 (3)
10. Capital charges are inappropriate here (5-4)
11. Took measured steps, perhaps (5)
13. Sleep it off when letter comes (7)
14. Very small amount of time (6)
16. Worse than Cinderella's sisters? (6)
18. Steeped as far down as possible (7)
19. Sounds a tiny thing, but the power's there! (5)
20. Inferior worker is sly (9)
21. Nothing indicated as the end-product also (3)
22. There are no factors in production of the best anaesthetic, apparently (5,6)

Down

2. The last of 12 (3)
3. Took steps to ease friction.... (5)
4. ....and we'd begun to appear.... (6)
5. ....having fun, like the early-rising bird (7)
6. Begin with fish - it's breath-taking (9)
7. Successful spiritualist avoids extremes (5,6)
8. Piercing a rotten pine (11)
12. Study offer made by competitor (9)
15. It is to be proved that article needs more changes (7)
17. This melody takes considerable effort (6)
19. She is absolutely crazy before noon! (5)
21. Where part of the foot points? (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Dogmatic (11)
9. Encountered (3)
10. Looker-on (9)
11. Adorn (5)
13. Watch (7)
14. Grand (6)
16. Small flag (6)
18. Abhors (7)
19. Evade (5)
20. Uprising (9)
21. A fuel (3)
22. Eternal (5-6)

Down

2. Place (3)
3. Disagreeable (5)
4. Fairy king (6)
5. Performer (7)
6. Installed as bishop (9)
7. Diplomats (11)
8. Unceremonious (4,3,4)
12. Respectable (9)
15. Determine (7)
17. Desire (6)
19. Ate dinner (5)
21. Fire-arm (3)

Sudoku

			3		1			9
		3		9		8		
	6			8	2		7	
		4						2
3	9		7		4		6	8
8					3	1		
	2	7	8	5			9	3
		6		3		7		
5			1					

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	1	9	2	5	6	8	4
8	5	6	7	3	4	9	2	1
2	9	4	6	8	1	5	3	7
1	7	5	8	9	3	2	4	6
3	2	9	4	5	6	1	7	8
6	4	8	1	7	2	3	9	5
4	6	3	2	1	8	7	5	9
9	8	2	5	6	7	4	1	3
5	1	7	3	4	9	8	6	2

No. 322 CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Bizarre; 7 Forms; 9 First; 10 Cabinet; 12 Information; 14 Saintliness; 18 Flogged; 19 Brief; 21 Quits; 22 Goliath. Down: 1 Rigid; 2 Pass on; 3 Err; 4 Soviet; 5 Emperor; 8 Raiment; 11 Coalmen; 13 Fall out; 15 Nights; 16 Sortie; 17 Delta; 20 Hoe. QUICK - Across: 6 Recount; 7 Quote; 9 Haste; 10 Retinue; 12 Fraudulence; 14 Hairdresser; 18 Proceed; 19 Comic; 21 Scorn; 22 Fraught. Down: 1 Delay; 2 Poster; 3 Ink; 4 Futile; 5 Staunch; 8 Request; 11 Quarrel; 13 Caprice; 15 Record; 16 Exodus; 17 Right; 20 Art.

Thinking space

Solutions to 317:
Quiz: 1 Alexander Fleming; 2 Scotland; 3 Mad Dog; 4 Patricia Highsmith; 5 Buzzard; 6 Ghana; 7 Alberto Tomba; 8 Graham Greene; 9 River Medway; 10 Gustav Mahler.
Niner: LIFEBOATS
Crossword: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Route; 8 Tangles; 9 Affront; 10 Lagos; 12 High street; 15 Treble clef; 18 Louis; 19 Optical; 21 Anemone; 22 Plumb. Down: 1 Ornamental; 2 Ruffs; 3 Nero; 4 Stitch; 5 Unclothe; 6 Flagged; 11 Set of clubs; 13 Illusion; 14 Refuses; 16 Crowed; 17 Scout; 20 Type. QUICK - Across: 7 Canon; 8 Torrent; 9 October; 10 Sweet; 12 Asseverate; 15 Accentuate; 18 Tress; 19 Kindred; 21 Unclean; 22 Adieu. Down: 1 Accountant; 2 Unite; 3 Knob; 4 Starve; 5 Prospect; 6 General; 11 Tremendous; 13 Sinister; 14 Screech; 16 Unkind; 17 Train; 20 Neat.

Quiz

1. In Greek mythology who was the sister and wife of Zeus?
2. When did Queen Victoria succeed to the throne?
3. Jomo Kenyatta was prime minister of which country?
4. Who wrote the opera Fidelio?
5. How many gills are in one pint?
6. In which American state is Fort Knox?
7. Which element has the symbol A?
8. Who wrote the Palliser novels?
9. What was the first James Bond film?
10. Which Shakespeare play features the character Polonius?

Solutions to no. 322:

Quiz: 1 Cosa Nostra; 2 Thomas Gray; 3 Richard Wagner; 4 Delaware; 5 Harold Macmillan; 6 Augustus; 7 14th; 8 Balaclava; 9 A Study in Scarlet; 10 Double bass.

Niner: FORESIGHT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

145 gives a rodent,
3678 gives a wild animal,
9243 gives an aquatic mammal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Codeword: 1=R, 2=W, 3=H, 4=I, 5=E, 6=D, 7=V, 8=G, 9=K, 10=P, 11=T, 12=X, 13=Y, 14=M, 15=O, 16=C, 17=Q, 18=F, 19=N, 20=A, 21=B, 22=U, 23=Z, 24=L, 25=J, 26=S.

Sudoku:

7	9	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
1	3	2	7	9	8	6	4	5
4	5	8	1	2	6	7	9	3
6	4	3	8	1	5	9	2	7
5	7	1	2	6	9	4	3	8
2	8	9	4	7	3	1	5	6
3	1	5	9	4	7	8	6	2
8	2	4	6	3	1	5	7	9
9	6	7	5	8	2	3	1	4

Express & Star Shop

EASY STEAM WINDOW CLEANER

JUST £29.99 WAS £79.99 SAVE £50

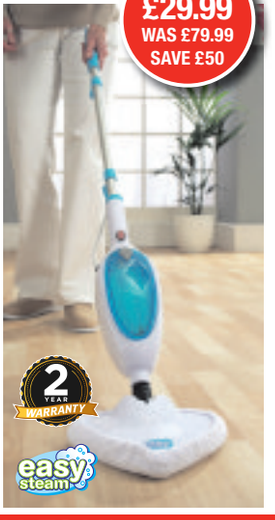
Ideal for leaving glass and other reflective surfaces spotless, this window steamer takes all the hard work out of cleaning. The powerful 1300W device creates steam that enables you to clean windows at a much faster rate than ordinary window cleaners. It boasts a detachable water tank with a capacity of 300ml and requires no chemicals or detergents to remove dirt, kill bacteria and completely disinfect windows. Its lightweight and compact design and safe, sturdy handle makes it easy to use and the combination of the rubber wiper, microfibre cloth and buffing mitt will ensure a streak-free finish. The steamer takes just four minutes to heat up ready for use. Dimensions: L34 x W28 x H14cm.

EASY STEAM MOP

JUST £29.99 WAS £79.99 SAVE £50

Use the power of steam to clean and disinfect your home without resorting to harmful detergents. This mop heats up instantly and eliminates dust mites, bacteria and grime.

Featuring a clever triangular mop head and swivel joint to allow it to reach into corners and other tight spaces, the mop has a 1300W motor that generates temperatures of 90°- 100°C. Suitable for all heat-resistant floors, including hardwood, tiles and stone, the mop comes apart for easy storage. A glider attachment is included for use on carpets. Two handy microfibre cloths are also included.



MAXI VAC

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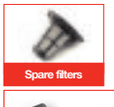
The all-new Maxi Vac really cleans up where others fail. Weighing less than a quarter of the weight of the UK's leading upright vacuum cleaner, the lightweight Maxi Vac delivers the power to clean up. Using the latest bagless technology, the 600W motor delivers direct suction all of the time.

At a little over 3lbs, it's so easy to use and converts from an upright to a hand-held vacuum in seconds. Ideal for those who struggle with a larger vacuum cleaner or those with limited storage space, Maxi Vac makes light work of cleaning stairs, upholstery, curtains and carpets.


Spare filters

maxi vac

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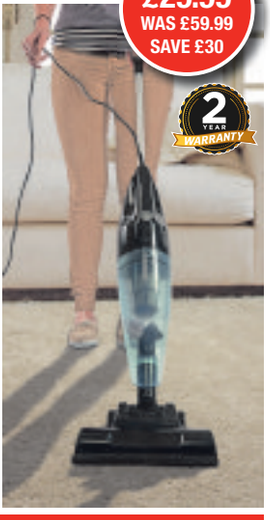

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			TOTAL	

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5-door hatch a MINI marvel!

By Sharon Walters

It didn't get off to a good start. I jumped in to the MINI Cooper D 1.5 for the first time to take son to the railway station and kept hitting my elbow against the driver's door.

"For goodness sake," I exclaimed," I'm only five feet four with appropriate length limbs and this should not be happening. What if I was a six footer?"

Then I regaled and probably bored my son to death with tales of my very first car, a Mini van when I was a student, back when God was a boy. I bought it for just £100 and sold it a year later for £90 after many hundreds of miles travelling to festivals and camping holidays. A whole year's motoring had cost me just £10 and I had never bruised my elbows when driving!

I moaned and groaned to myself on my return journey home and then had another look at the settings for the seat, steering wheel and centre console which also annoyed me. Hands up now. If I had taken more time to set the driving position up, I would not have endured bruised limbs. In my defence we were close to being late for the train and I had perhaps rushed the process. A couple of minutes and all was fine with the world.

The following day I embarked on a 420 mile trip along lanes and motorways which was followed by even more miles visiting friends and skirting mountains, followed by the trip back. Tiring you may think? Not in the least. I had some great fun in the car in a perfect driving position!

This five-door diesel can go like a pocket rocket in sport or 'go kart' mode when you desire and eats up winding country roads like light snacks. And if you want to watch the economy it will cut back your fuel consumption in green mode. While for everyday driving there is a mid mode. This MINI Driving Modes option provides an excellent basis for fuel efficient motoring. A rotary switch at the base of the gear or selector lever is used to activate either the default mid mode, sport mode or green mode. In SPORT, the accelerator pedal and steering are switched to a more performance-oriented set-up, as are the shift times in cars fitted with the Steptronic transmission). In green mode, a more relaxed and fuel-efficient driving style is supported by intelligent control of energy and climate management, as well as by systems such as shift point display.

Sharper

What is a delight is the sense of urgency when you push this MINI at speed, especially in sport when the steering gets sharper and the throttle is quicker. A real joy to drive. It performs and handles so well, never any hestitation or nervousness even when taking on winding and rolling country roads.

The 114bhp 3-cylinder 1.5-litre diesel engine has so much torque and gets from 0-62mph sprint time in a shade over nine seconds with a top speed (where legal!) of 126mph. An additional pleasure, for me, is the gently throaty burble when you're in the lower rev range.

There is plenty of room for four and you can get a third passenger in the back. But in reality that would only be comfortable for short journeys. However a child would be quite at ease. MINI is targeting a more grown-up demographic with a five-door variant, designed to appeal to those who want to carry people in the rear. It will also appeal to those who may need more luggage space.

'What is a delight is the sense of urgency when you push this MINI at speed, especially in sport when the steering gets sharper and the throttle is quicker.'

The boot is good for the size of the car but with the rear seats folded down is impressive.

Inside the quality and equipment levels are very good. Standard specification includes a six-speed manual transmission, front and rear electric windows, electrically adjustable exterior mirrors, air-conditioning, door sill cover strips with a model-specific inscription, front fog lamps, onboard computer, MINI Radio including aux-in, USB interface and Bluetooth, DAB Digital Radio and front ISOFIX with passenger airbag deactivation. These can be supplemented with a range of high-quality comfort, functionality and individualisation options.

On the safety front there's also a sizeable package.

The MINI 5-Door Hatch is available in six model variants with a choice of both petrol and diesel engines. A six-speed manual transmission is fitted as standard across the range, with a six-speed Steptronic transmission available as an option. Combined cycle CO2 emissions start at just 92 g/km.

Prices start at £14,350. And it is built in the UK at the MINI plant in Oxford. German money behind the best of British manufacturing!

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions: 98g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.
Model Shown: Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £21,345 On The Road (OTR). *15YM Civic range from £15,975 for 1.4 S Manual non metallic to £25,860 for 1.8 EX+ Auto metallic. Terms and Conditions: New retail 15YM Civic registered from 01 April 2015 to 30 June 2015. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. Deposit contribution: £500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic Diesel models purchased through Honda Aspirations. Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Honda Aspirations (PCP): *5.9% APR Representative example shown based on Civic Sport 1.6 i-DTEC Manual in Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic at £21,345 total cash price with 37 months 5.9% APR Representative PCP (interest rate per annum 5.68% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years Servicing includes: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. 5 Years Servicing is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £930 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Peugeot 208 is on the up

By Graham Breeze

It's time for Peugeot buyers to start getting excited with the arrival of the new 208 just around the corner.

The 208 has been a key player in Peugeot' rise up the UK sales ladder and order books have been bulging since the new model was revealed at the Geneva Motor Show.

The new model hits our streets on June 1 with new styling, more colour choices and scores of personalisation opportunities. Expectations are high that this 208 will help Peugeot's sales soar, backed up by new equipment levels such as active city braking and reversing cameras to improve urban driving.

It's clearly a move up market and the 208 now looks much more distinctive with a wider front grille and new two-tone headlights with black chrome masks and a high- tech LED light signature, fitted as standard from Active trim upwards.

At the rear, the full LED light clusters have been redesigned to incorporate Peugeot's 3D 'claws' motif.

Further enhancements include exclusive new 16 and 17-inch wheel options, available across the range, available in a choice of painted, diamante or with innovative sequential diamante or laser engraved finishes.

Chrome door mirror shells are now standard from the Allure trim upwards.

When the 208 was launched in 2012 it was the first opportunity for customers to experience Peugeot's new 'i-Cockpit' cabin concept, which has since been adopted by the 2008 and new 308.

Consisting of a compact steering wheel, head-up instrumentation panel and large touch-screen, it compares well with anything in the sector and is easy to understand – with everything exactly where you expect to find it.

I particularly like the new steering wheel, which is now trimmed in full-grain leather from Active trim, while the soft-touch moulded dashboard strip – which is standard regardless of trim level – has new graining on higher specification models.

Improvements

A seven-inch touch screen is standard from Active trim level, and provides easy access to all systems including audio, navigation, telephone, vehicle information and internet. There's on-board connectivity using Bluetooth, USB and mobile applications via Peugeot Connect Apps, adopting the latest software improvements.

New to 208 is the impressive MirrorScreen, which makes it possible to transfer the screen of a smartphone to the vehicle's display, to make full use of its applications.

Driving a different car every week I am finding parking a chore but the 208 now has Parking Assist allowing the vehicle to park in and leave a parallel parking space automatically. It's brilliant, once you have the confidence to let the vehicle park itself.

Personalisation is a now a deciding factor in many small car purchases and available for the first time are exterior personalisation packs – such as Menthol White – which is a factory-fit option from Active trim level. And there's now 13 colours to pick from.

The revised engine line-up means all versions of the 208 meet stringent Euro 6 emissions standards. Every version of the new 208 is below 95g/km of CO2 and with the exception of the 75hp in entry level trim, all are equipped with Stop & Start (S&S) technology.

The 1.6-litre BlueHDi engines are now available with three power levels choices. The first two are the 75 and 100 S&S, which are coupled with a five-speed manual gearbox and capable of impressive economy at 94.1mpg – a record for the segment, and in the market. The third is the 120 S&S which is mated to a six-speed manual gearbox, which produces just 94g/km of CO2.

Following the launch of the naturally aspirated 1.0-litre PureTech 68hp and 1.2-litre PureTech 82hp engines, the PureTech family of three-cylinder petrol engines is expanded with the 1.2-litre turbocharged PureTech 110hp S&S version. Coupled with a five-speed manual gearbox, this engine achieves CO2 emissions of just 103g/km.

The new 208 is available with the new EAT6 six-speed automatic gearbox, which uses Quickshift technology allowing for faster changes.

Peugeot hope that with official CO2 emissions of 104g/km, the 1.2-litre PureTech 110hp S&S EAT6 will be the reference in terms of a petrol automatic transmission in its segment.

Available in three and five-door versions, 208 GT Line is available with a choice of three engines – the 1.2-litre PureTech 110hp S&S petrol or the 1.6-litre BlueHDi diesel in either 100hp or 120hp outputs.

I'm expecting the 208GTi to be particularly popular, featuring a lowered ride height, wider tracks, 18-inch wheels, matt black exterior features, sports 'bucket' front seats, red floor mats and two-tone paintwork.

And with Brembo front brakes, Torsen differential, tuned suspension and steering settings with Michelin Pilot Super Sport tyres the GTi will set a few hearts racing.

And with prices ranging from just over £10,000 to just under £20,000 there's something in the range to suite just about everyone's tastes.

Expect to see a lot more of the Peugeot 208.

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa Excite 1.2 70PS: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined: 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 124g/km.#

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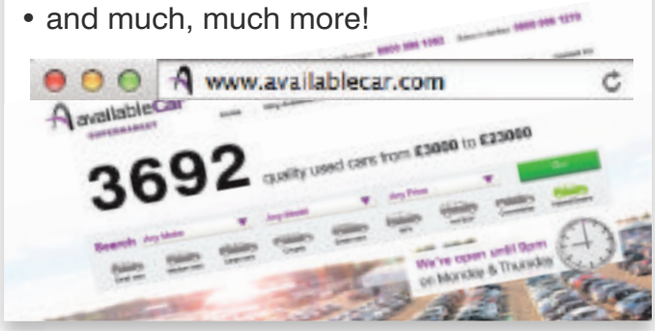

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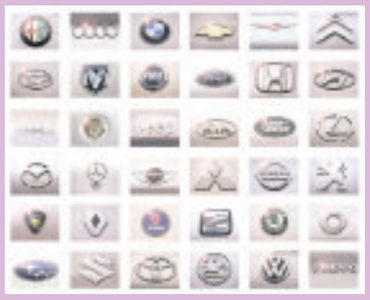

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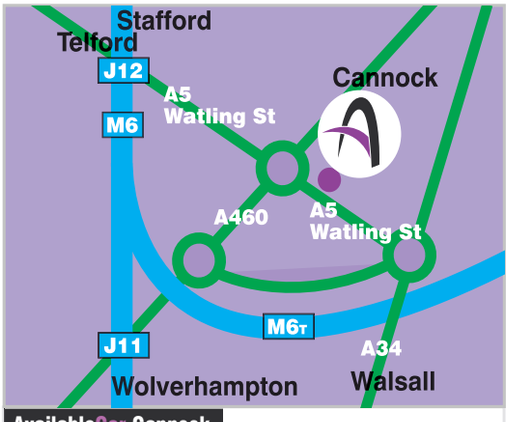

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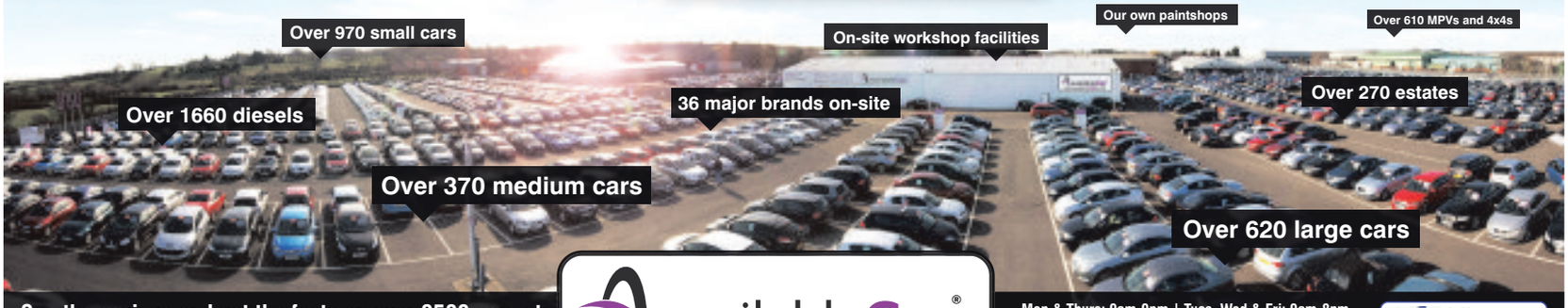

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Supercar thrills from hatchback

By Sharon Walters

Feast your eyes on the ultimate 308. Peugeot has unveiled a stunning new version of the award-winning compact family hatchback – with a combined 500bhp and four-wheel drive.

Badged the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid, it has been developed by Peugeot Sport, the brand's in-house engineering and racing division, which last year unveiled the critically acclaimed RCZ R.

The car's plug-in petrol hybrid powertrain pushes the boundaries of sporting prowess in the segment, offering an extraordinary performance. The car is capable of hitting 62mph in four seconds, yet still has low CO2 emissions of 70g/km. "Peugeot Sport's expertise applies an uncompromising approach to meeting targets. With our experience in hybrid vehicles developed with the Peugeot 908, the high-performance hybrid powertrain fitted to the 308 gives a glimpse of the potential for ultra-sports models in the future," said Bruno Famin, director at Peugeot Sport.

The contemporary style and sporting prowess of the 308 – the Car of the Year 2014 – remain clearly visible. However, the 308 R HYbrid also re-imagines design cues explored on the Quartz concept, seen most recently at March's Geneva Motor Show. It has front and rear tracks widened by 80mm and riding on 235/35 R19 tyres with front end styling that is dynamic and imposing. The grille features a chequered pattern which allows air to cool the 500hp powertrain. The side scoops are home to the sequential LED indicators, while the central scoop sports the 308 R HYbrid signature.

Cloaked in an intense blue and developed using fluorescent pigments and glass particles, this colour salutes both the hybrid powertrain and the shade historically reserved for French competition vehicles. On the rear doors, the blue is matched with a matte black, giving a new interpretation of the car's clean lines. At the rear, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is understated, with a narrow spoiler at the top of the tailgate. The bumper's twin air scoops help keep the battery temperature down by drawing out the hot air, whilst the lower section is embellished with a touch of white emphasising the car's dynamic character.

Dramatic

Peugeot 'i-Cockpit' instrumentation means the interior is familiar, but that's where similarities to the standard 308 end. Four individual sports seats create a dramatic interior which point to the sole aim of Peugeot 308 R HYbrid – world-class performance. The upper fittings and roof lining are slate grey and in sporting tradition, the cabin is finished with touches of red, with attention paid around the dials, steering wheel centre marker and central console.

In a unique twist, the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid uses materials taken from the range, which the brand usually reserves for concept cars. Hence, the dashboard is covered in a fabric produced using a digital weaving technique. This innovative material can be used to produce large and complex parts that are soft to the touch with no need for foam, making for a lighter vehicle.

The compact steering wheel, upholstered in perforated leather and bearing the '308 R HYbrid' logo, allows for precise positioning during cornering. The steering wheel paddles fall immediately to hand, giving the driver finger-tip control over the six-speed gearbox. A head-up display provides all relevant driving information without the need to take your eyes off the road. Finally, the two buttons on the central console allow the driver to keep a check on the mechanics; the first activates the powerful powertrain, whilst the second gives access to four driving modes.

At the heart of the Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is a technical innovation – a plug-in powertrain with four-wheel drive that develops 500hp. The unit combines three sources of power, each capable of moving the vehicle independently of the others. They are a four-cylinder 1.6-litre THP 270 S&S petrol engine, plus two electric motors – each with power of 85kW/115hp – mounted one on each axle. The front one is linked to the six-speed gearbox.

The result is a family hatchback which is capable of supercar performance. The Peugeot 308 R HYbrid can hit 62mph (100km/h) from a standing start in only 4.0 seconds, with top speed electronically limited to 155mph. In spite of this performance, CO2 emissions are just 70g/km.

"If we were able to reach this kind of performance on a C-segment, it is all down to our passion for a challenge and our desire for excellence. Peugeot 308 R HYbrid is part of a very select club of cars reaching 0-62mph in four seconds" said Jean-Philippe Delaire, Peugeot Sport head of development, 308 R HYbrid powertrain.

The Peugeot Sport engineers have equipped the car with four driving modes: Hot Lap mode is the most powerful and can reach a total of 500hp and maximum torque of 730Nm; Track mode delivers 400hp and 530Nm, mainly from the petrol engine and the rear electric motor; Road mode is specially designed for road use with power of 300hp and torque of 400Nm; ZEV makes priority use of the rear electric motor. The front electric motor comes into play, depending on the pressure applied on the accelerator pedal.

The all-wheel drive system of the 308 R HYbrid makes for formidable handling, especially when coming out of the corners.

Keep up with the latest news at #PEUGEOT308RHYbrid

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Honda's new HR-V looking on line to be ultra efficient

By James Parker

Honda says its all-new HR-V will be one of the most efficient cars in its class and have an unmatched combination of sought-after attributes when it arrives in showrooms across the UK this summer.

As well as dynamic styling, class-leading interior space and versatility, and advanced infotainment and safety technologies, the new HR-V will deliver fuel economy and emissions among the best in its class.

It will be offered from launch with a choice of 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel and 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol engines, both from Honda's advanced Earth Dreams Technology series.

"The Honda HR-V created this fast growing market segment back in 1999 and for 2015 the all new HR-V will offer a class leading ownership proposition, refinement, sleek styling, a quality feel as well as being packed to the roof with safety and technology features.

"We are confident that the HR-V will perform favourably against its main competitors in this segment, such as the current market leading Nissan Qashqai," said Leon Brannan, Head of Car, Honda (UK).

Combining the 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel paired with a newly-engineered six-speed manual transmission, Honda's new subcompact SUV will return fuel economy figures from 71mpg, with CO2 emissions starting from just 104g/km.

HR-V customers won't find performance compromised by the car's frugality, however, with 118bhp powering the new HR-V from 0-62mph in 10.1 seconds.

Petrol buyers can select a 130 PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC engine, achieving combined fuel economy of 54.2mpg and CO2 emissions from 120 g/km when they opt for the CVT automatic transmission.

Economy

When married with the standard six-speed manual, the new petrol-powered HR-V delivers fuel economy of 50mpg and CO2 emissions at a highly competitive 130 g/km.

Sprightly performance is assured with 62mph reached from standstill in just 10.3 seconds with the manual and 10.9 seconds when equipped with the optional CVT.

The new HR-V's efficient performance credentials are aided by its design and class-leading aerodynamics, with underbody panels optimising airflow. In profile, the HR-V portrays a characterful poise, with the distinctive, boldly sculpted lines of a coupé merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV.

Inside,the new HR-V will offer class-leading boot space: 453 litres with the rear seats up and 1,026 litres with the rear seats down.

Thanks to innovative packaging, the Honda HR-V's best-in-class interior space is exceptionally versatile and incorporates Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system.

Premium quality materials and sophisticated cabin design are blended with the feel of a sporty, enveloping cockpit.

Specification highlights include the advanced Honda Connect in-car infotainment system, and a wide range of safety aids employing radar and camera technologies to scan the road ahead.

Further details including pricing will be available closer to the new HR-V's summer launch.

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Chase Car Sales relocated from original premises to its current site at Corner Garage in 2006 as a result of a regeneration scheme.

However, the move to brand-new purpose-built premises allowed the dealership to offer more choice and variety for car buyers while the facilities available to staff further enhanced the levels of customer care.

The company has grown enormously since its early beginnings and today Chase Car Sales is the largest used car dealership in around the Hednesford area, with its own workshop dedicated to delivering exceptional aftersales care for car buyers.

At Chase Car Sales the aim has always been to offer something to match every lifestyle, budget and requirement.

So you'll find a fine selection of well-prepared used models displayed featuring a wide range of differing styles, makes and models that include city cars, compact hatchbacks, four-door saloons, five-door estates and family-friendly MPVs, with sports cars, coupes, cabriolets or 4x4s often available, too.

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All vehicles are affordably-priced and handpicked by Owner/Director Craig Tarr to maintain high levels of quality, with all cars being sourced from trusted suppliers.

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The friendly sales team are in an exceptional position to offer you a range of very competitive finance packages to make your payments easily achievable.

They have access to many finance options through respected providers such as Blackhorse, Close Finance, MotoNovo and other finance houses that specialise in sub prime finance requirements.

Even customers who have had poor credit histories in the past are usually able to take advantage of the financial expertise available at Chase Car Sales.

Part exchange deals are also welcome and if you have a car to sell Craig and his team can do that for you, too.

Craig says: "The difference between us and many others is that we're interested in buying and selling cars but also want to ensure that you're totally happy with your purchase, so we offer full aftersales facilities."

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2009 59 **MINI COOPER CLUBMAN 1.6 ESTATE** aircon alloys only 41862 miles with history **£7,999**
2008 58 **MINI COOPER 1.6** 3-Dr red with black roof alloy wheels look only 50031 miles with history **£6,499**
2003 52 **MINI ONE 1.6** 3-Dr alloy wheels aircon lovely blue metallic **£2,999**

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2011 61 **COLT 1.1 CZ1** 3-Dr central locking electric windows low insurance & RFL look only 23950 miles **£4,999**

NISSAN

2013 63 **JUKE 1.6 VISIA** 5-Dr alloys aircon 1 private lady owner only 11500 miles FSH **£10,499**
2011 60 **NOTE 1.5 DCI DIESEL N-TEC** 5-Dr SATNAV alloys aircon FSH look only 50265 miles £20 RFL for year **£6,999**
2010 10 **QASHQAI VISA 1.5 DCI DIESEL PURE DRIVE** 5 -Dr in white aircon electrcis pack only 35528 miles **£9,999**

PEUGEOT

2011 11 **RCZ GT THP 150** 3-Dr COUPE Black with chrome arches black heated leather AC alloys look 23253 miles **£12,999**
2008 08 **207 1.4 M PLAY** 5-Dr aircon electric windows central looking only 67219 miles electric blue **£3,999**
2010 60 **3008 EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDI DIESEL AUTOMATIC** 5-Dr panoramic glass roof aircon alloys 31339 miles **£8,999**
2009 59 **407 SPORT 2.0 HDI 140 DIESEL SW** 5-Dr ESTATE part leather SATNAV alloys aircon only 32344 miles **£7,999**

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2011 60 **CLIO 2.0 RENAULTSPORT 16V 200** 3-Dr alloy wheels aircon with history only 52693 miles need viewing **£8,999**
2011 11 **MEGANE 2.0 DCI DIESEL 160 GT LINE TOM TOM** 5-Dr leather SATNAV alloys aircon rare beast ! **£6,999**
2010 10 **MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.6 COUPE** 3-Dr Burnt Orange alloy wheels aircon electrics only 29073 miles **£6,999**
2005 05 **MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.6** 5-DR aircon electric windows central locking **£1,999**
2004 04 **MEGANE RENAULT SPORT 225** 3-Dr aircon alloy wheels rare beast in electric sblue need viewing **£2,999**
2009 59 **LAGUNA 2.0 DCI DEISEL GT 180 COUPE** 2-Dr leather aircon alloys only 62327 miles rare coupe ! **£7,999**

SEAT

2013 13 **IBIZA ST 1.2 TSI FR TOURER ESTATE** 5-Dr alloys aircon parking sensors SATNAV only 21088 rare !! **£9,999**
2009 58 **IBIZA 1.6 SPORT** 5-Dr alloys aircon with history only 50404 miles in bright red **£5,999**
2011 11 **LEON 1.4 TSI SE** 5-Dr alloys aircon look only 33770 miles vw engineering with history **£7,999**

SKODA

2007 07 **FABIA 3 1.4 TDI DIESEL 80HP** 5-Dr alloy wheels aircon look only 28412 miles rare small diesel £30 tax mint **£5,999**

SMART

2009 09 **FORTWO PASSION 800 CDI DIESEL AUTO** 3-Dr alloys aircon panoramic roof only 46617 miles rfl= £nil **£3,999**

SUZUKI

2007 57 **C4 PICASSO 2.0 VTR PLUS AUTOMATIC** 5-Dr alloys aircon only 55209 miles rare car **£4,999**
2013 63 **ORLANDO 1.8 LT** 5-Dr 7 seater alloy wheels aircon look only 14541 miles **£8,999**
2010 10 **MAZDA 5 2.0 TS2** 5-Dr 7 seater alloy wheels aircon histiry only 42088 miles **£6,999**
2009 59 **MINI COOPER CLUBMAN 1.6 ESTATE** aircon alloys only 41862 miles with history **£7,999**
2010 60 **3008 EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDI DIESEL AUTOMATIC** 5-Dr panoramic glass roof aircon alloys 31339 miles **£8,999**
2009 59 **407 SPORT 2.0 HDI 140 DIESEL SW** 5-Dr ESTATE part leather SATNAV alloys aircon only 32344 miles **£7,999**
2013 13 **IBIZA ST 1.2 TSI FR TOURER ESTATE** 5-Dr alloys aircon parking sensors SATNAV only 21088 rare !! **£9,999**
2011 11 **INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI DIESEL EXCLUSIVE TOURER** 5-Dr ESTATE SATNAV alloys aircon only 50437 miles **£9,499**
2060 60 **INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI DIESEL EXCLUSIVE TOURER** 5-Dr ESTATE alloys aircon only 58105 miles with history **£8,999**
2009 59 **ZAFIRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE** 5-Dr 7 seats aicron only 42531 with history **£6,999**
2007 07 **ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DIESEL LIFE** 5-Dr 7 seats aicron great value for money people carrier with history **£3,999**

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2011 11 **BMW 320D DIESEL EFFICIENT DYNAMICS** 4-Dr alloys aircon only 49371 miles with history **£11,999**
2011 11 **C4 1.6 HDI 90 DIESEL VTR+** 5-Dr aircon alloys electrics pack look only 40883 miles **£7,499**
2010 60 **DS3 1.6HDI 110 DIESEL DSPORT** 3-Dr Yellow with black roof aircon electrics pack with FSH **£7,999**
2011 61 **DS4 1.6E HDI DIESEL DSTYLE** 5-Dr half leather trim 18" alloys climate parking sensors only 40832 miles **£9,499**
2009 59 **FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC** 5-Dr alloys aircon with history only £30 RFL for year **£6,499**
2008 08 **C320 ELEGANCE 3.0 CDI DIESEL AUTOMATIC** 4-Dr Black leather seats aircon alloys only 54579 miles **£10,999**
2011 60 **NOTE 1.5 DCI DIESEL N-TEC** 5-Dr SATNAV alloys aircon FSH look only 50265 miles £20 RFL for year **£6,999**
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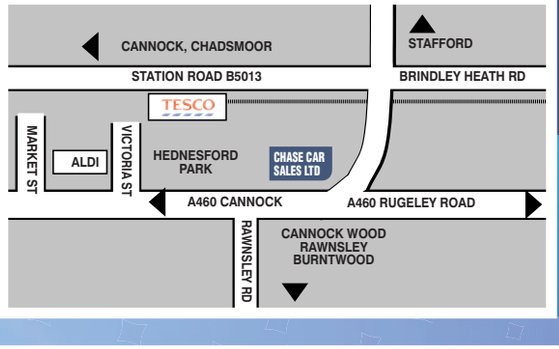

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Already at the forefront of diesel technology with its current production cars, Audi is claiming a revolutionary step towards carbon-neutral cars after creating a new type of diesel from water and carbon dioxide.

Using renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and solar power, the water is split into oxygen and hydrogen.

The hydrogen is then mixed with carbon monoxide, harvested from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and under high pressure and temperatures the two react to create crude.

This can then be refined and mixed with conventional diesel or used on its own. According to test results, it is also more efficient than conventional diesel, with 70 per cent of its stored energy available.

The fuel is being produced by Sunfire in Dresden in collaboration with Audi, the only downside being that only 160 litres are being produced per day. However there are plans for a larger factory and once viable production levels have been achieved it could sell to the public for less than the current cost of regular diesel fuel.

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New SEAT Alhambra – intelligent, innovative

By James Parker

SEAT is continuing its product offensive with the new generation of its Alhambra. The intelligent and versatile MPV is up to 15 per cent more fuel efficient thanks to its new engines and even more dynamic thanks to increased power output.

The Alhambra remains at the very forefront of its class with new comfort and assistance systems, as well as innovative connectivity and infotainment offerings. The new Alhambra will arrive at dealerships this summer, with UK pre-ordering starting at the end of May.

"Alhambra has seen a year of record sales in 2014. Innovation, driving fun, utility and safety are the keywords for the new-generation Alhambra, making it the perfect partner for an active lifestyle," says Jürgen Stackmann, chairman of the executive committee SEAT, S.A. "Its compelling concept combines the very best functionality and state-of-the-art technology with an excellent standard of quality and workmanship. Plus, in true SEAT fashion, it offers incredible value for money."

The line-up of petrol and diesel engines has been completely redeveloped. Each powertrain fulfils the stringent Euro 6 emissions standard. The turbocharged direct-injection units are also up to 15 per cent more fuel efficient. Powered by the 2.0 TDI 150 PS for instance, the New Alhambra's fuel consumption is an impressive 57.6 mpg, with 130 grams of CO2 per km.

Forefront

In the UK, the 2.0 TDI engines will be offered with 150 PS and 184 PS (torque 380 Nm). A 1.4 TSI petrol engine delivering 150 PS also joins the fold.

"The Alhambra stays at the very forefront with its further improved fuel consumption and emissions figures. With its new technologies, it provides the best possible combination of dynamic driving fun and excellent comfort." says Dr. Matthias Rabe, SEAT executive vice president for research and development.

All engines can be combined with the DSG dual-clutch automatic transmission, which in its latest generation also boasts a fuel-saving coasting function. As soon as the driver lifts off the accelerator, the Alhambra runs with the engine decoupled.

The new Alhambra comes with a new generation of SEAT Easy Connect infotainment systems. These include high-resolution touchscreen displays and the very latest processors for much faster booting and rapid route calculation, offering a completely new level of connectivity too.

The multi-collision brake system is also standard equipment in the New Alhambra. In the event that the driver can no longer intervene following an accident, it initiates automatic braking to avoid a secondary collision. New to the line-up is the Blind-Spot Sensor, which warns of unseen vehicles when changing lane. Also new in the Alhambra is DCC (Dynamic Chassis Control). The system regulates the damper valves in a matter of milliseconds to adapt the vehicle characteristics to the exact driving situation - whether it's supreme comfort or a sportier drive. The new massage seats also deliver an exceptionally high level of long-distance comfort.

The Alhambra's design has been subtly updated. New rear lights with LED technology display SEAT's distinctive light signature, which underscores its family connections, as do the new brand logo set into the modified front grille and the new wheel designs. The interior comes with new trim colours, the steering wheel design is taken from the SEAT Leon and some of the control elements have been redesigned. The keyless entry and start system is another ease of use feature.

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2008 58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 STYLE Silver, C/locking, PAS, 58,000 miles, service history

2011 11 FIAT 500 TWIN AIR START STOP White, One Owner, Full Service History, Alloys, E/windows, C/locking, CD, Tax Cost Nil

2010 59 FORD FUSION STYLE + 1.4 5-door, Auto, Only 20,000 miles, as new throughout

2007 57 Fiat Doblo 1.4 wheelchair carrier, gold, 3 seats & chair, only 47,000 miles, alloys, electric windows central locking. PAS

2008 08KIA CARENS 2.0 Diesel, Auto, Silver, 7 Seats, E/Windows, C/Locking, Rear DVD Player, Alloys

CAR OF THE WEEK

2009 59 SKODA YETI S 2.0 TDi CR Metallic Blue, one owner, full Skoda history, alloys, e/windows, air con, Immaculate throughout **£9995**

SALOONS - HATCHBACKS - ESTATES

2011 11 FIAT 500 TWIN AIR START STOP White, One Owner, Full Service History, Alloys, E/windows, C/locking, CD, Tax Cost Nil **£6495**

2010 60 CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi AIRDREAM PLUS Diesel, only 17,000 miles, air con, alloys, c/windows, c/locking, PAS, 30 road tax **£6995**

2009 59 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE 3-door. Red, c/locking, e/windows, CD player, full service history **£4695**

2009 09 CITROEN C1 VTS 1.0 Black, E/Windows, C/Locking, Service History **£3,995**

2009 58 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE Grey, Only 64,000 miles, air con, c/locking, e/windows etc **£3795**

2008 58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 STYLE Silver, C/locking, PAS, 58,000 miles, service history **£4995**

2008 08 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 LIFE Metallic Grey, c/locking, e/windows, PAS, CD player. Full service history **£4295**

2006 56 FORD KA 1.3. Blue, one owner from new, only 39,000 miles, excellent condition throughout **£2495**

CONVERTIBLES

2008 08 VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE Metallic Blue, Black Leather, alloys, air con, heated seats, e/windows, c/locking, electric roof **£3995**

2005 05 MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE Silver, 64,000 miles, FSH, electric roof, alloys, CD, e/windows, c/locking **£5495**

2005 05 RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 DYNAMIQUE CONVERTIBLE Black with black leather, alloys, air con etc **£2695**

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2009 59 SKODA YETI CRTDi, Metallic Blue, 1 owner, full Skoda history, e/windows, c/locking, alloys **£9,995**

2008 08 KIA CARENS 2.0 Diesel, Auto, Silver, 7 Seats, E/Windows, C/Locking, Rear DVD Player, Alloys **£3,995**

2008 08 PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDi VAN One Owner, 80,000 miles, Tidy Van ..... **£2,750 +VAT**

2007 57 Fiat Doblo 1.4 wheelchair carrier, gold, 3 seats & chair, only 47,000 miles, alloys, electric windows central locking. PAS **£4495**

2004 54 HYUNDAI TRAJET GSi 2.0 CRTD Seven seater, diesel, only 65,000 miles, FSH, e/windows, c/locking, privacy glass, rear air con **£3295**

2003 53 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 LX Metallic Blue, Only 53,000 miles, E/Windows, PAS, C/Locking **£1,995**

AUTOMATICS

2010 59 FORD FUSION STYLE + 1.4 5-door, Auto, Only 20,000 miles, as new throughout **£5,495**

2008 08 SKODA OCTAVIA LAURIN & KLEMENT 2.0 TDi DSG Estate, Metallic Blue, 1/2 leather, alloys, air con, heated seats, e/windows **£5995**

2005 55 MAZDA 2 Auto, Silver, 1 owner, only 31,000 miles, service history, alloys, CD, e/windows, c/locking, PAS **£3495**

2005 05 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 3-door. Automatic, PAS, C/locking, E/windows, 34,000 miles, full service history **£2995**

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2004 54 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 CDTi Auto, 7 seater, Metallic Blue, New MOT **£1995**

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2009 59 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE 3-door. Red, c/locking, e/windows, CD player, full service history

2009 09 CITROEN C1 VTS 1.0 Black, E/Windows, C/Locking, Service History

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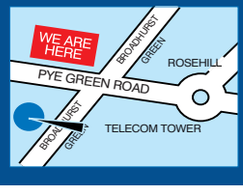

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

DAVIES
Iris May

Sadly passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2015, aged 82 years.

Much loved Mom to Carl and Jayne and Grandmother to Gareth.

The Funeral Service is to take place on Monday, May 11, at 10.30am at Stafford Crematorium.

Close Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the British Lung Foundation to support work with COPD.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street,
Cannock, WS11 1DH
01543 502322

DUTTON
Jean

Loving Wife and Mother.

Gone but not forgotten.

All our love Husband Eric and Diane.

X X X

Mom

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

All our love Alan, Dee, Barry, Anna, and Families.

X X X

DUTTON
Jean

Sadly passed away, April 11, 2015.

Memories of a dear Mom and Nan will never fade.

Lots of love always from Barry, Anna, Matthew, Jess, Lee, Jess, Alfie, Kayleigh and Steve.

GETHIN
Brian.

Formerly of Cannock and Hednesford.

Sadly passed away in Ireland on April 27, 2015.

Will be greatly missed by All his Family.

GETHIN
Colin

Passed away peacefully on April 24, 2015.

Beloved Husband of Sandra and Dad to Mick and Dean. Will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Service at Stafford Crematorium on 11 May, 2015 at 12.30.

Family flowers only, donations for Lewy Body Dementia.

GETHIN
Colin
1943 -2015

Passed away April 24, after a long illness with Lewy Body Dementia.

Colin you fought so hard to stay with us, in the end it was too much for you.

Reunited with your Mom and Dad.

I miss you so much Colin.

Love you always and forever. See you soon.

Your Loving Wife Sandra.

X

GETHIN
Colin

Passed away on April 24, 2015.

Rest in Peace Colin.

Will be sadly missed by Sisters Alice and Joan, and Brothers - in - Law Jim and Steve and their Families.

GOOCH
Anthony Eric
(Tony)

Died peacefully in his sleep Sunday, April 26, 2015, aged 76 years.

Funeral Service to be held at Stafford Crematorium, on Friday, May 15, 2015, at 10am.

Family flowers only.

Donations to The Royal British Legion.

GRAY
Andrew
(Andy)

Of Rugeley, formerly of Wigan and Blackpool.

Died on April 26, 2015, at the age of 86, after a short illness.

Deeply loved and missed by Olive, his Wife for 65 years, Daughter Sheena, Son Robin and Son-in-law Albert.

Andy's Funeral Service will take place at 2pm, on Tuesday, May 12, at Stafford Crematorium, Tixall Road, Stafford, ST18 0XZ.

Colourful clothes welcome at the Service, afterwards at Lea Hall Social Club, Sandy Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2LB.

Flowers by 12 noon on the day please c/o:

CO-OPERATIVE

FUNERALCARE

17 Brereton Road,

Rugeley,

WS15 1DN.

Telephone 01889 582315.

GREEN
Eileen Florence

Passed away peacefully at Abbey Court Nursing Home on April 22, 2015, aged 87 years.

Eileen will be sadly missed by all her loving Family.

Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at 11.30am, at Stafford Crematorium.

Eileen is now resting in a private Chapel of Repose at HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICE
70 Hednesford Road
Heath Hayes
Cannock
Staffs
WS12 3EA
01543 459200.

GREEN
Eileen Florence
Our Mom

God saw you getting tired when a cure was not to be, so He wrapped his arms around you and whispered come to Me.

You didn't deserve what you went through, so He gave you rest, God's garden must be beautiful, He only takes the best and when I saw you sleeping, so peaceful and free from pain, I could not wish you back to suffer that again.

God bless Mom and rest in peace.

From all your loving Family.

X X X X X X X X X

MADDOX
Trevor George

Passed away April 27, 2015, aged 90 years.

He will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium, on Monday, May 11, at 11.30am.

Family flowers only please, donations for Cancer Research c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

WILTON
George Henry

Of Norton Canes.

Passed away on April 29, 2015, aged 78 years.

George will be sadly missed by all his loving Family.

Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at Stafford Crematorium, at 1.30pm.

George is now resting in a private Chapel of Repose.

Family flowers only please.

Donations can be given to the Family for St Giles Hospice.

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in memoriam

EVANS
Thomas
(Tom)
May 6, 1966.

Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day.

Love always your Family.

X X X

JANUSZ
Gladys
May 7, 2014.

One year on.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

All our love Pauline, Geoff, and Family.

WINFIELD
Margaret

A year has passed and no words can express how much we miss you.

Thinking of Dad, 35 years May 23.

Love always Mandy, Mick, and Families.

X X X

birthday remembrances

EVANS
May

Happy Birthday special lady.

Our Dearest Mom, Nan and Great Nan, 106 years May 8th.

Remembering this day, all the happy Birthdays, shared together and sending you our love that will last forever.

God bless.

Your Family.

X X X

WALKER
Phyllis
May 7th.

Love and missed every day.

God bless.

Geoff, Christine, Grandson Kristian, Eve and Great Grandaughters.

X X X

acknowledgements

DUTTON
Jean

Eric, Barry, Anna, Alan, Dee, Diane and Families, would like to thank Relatives and Friends for their support, cards and donations totalling £200 for Dementia UK.

Special thanks to Waters Edge, Co-Op Funeral Care and Rev. Jane Nash.

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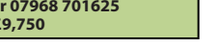

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vets

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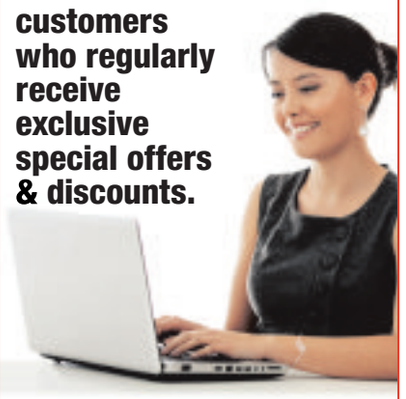

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Staffordshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
B4154 MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 05 May 2015, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of B4154 Market Street, Hednesford between its junction with A460 Rugeley Road and Victoria Street unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. Vehicular access to frontages will be available dependent upon the works.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Victoria Street and A460 Rugeley Road.

Throughout the duration of this Order it will be necessary to temporarily suspend the One Way Order on B4154 Market Street, Hednesford from its junction with A460 Rugeley Road to its junction with Victoria Street.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 11 MAY 2015, AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 12 JULY 2015.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the water main renewal works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation
No. 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP

Ref: S27418; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000 http://roadworks.org

Date: 07 May 2015

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004

The Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 (Amendment) No. 28/20xx

1. Staffordshire County Council propose to make a Traffic Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 (1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Traffic Management Act 2004 which will:
   (a) prevent you from parking your vehicle at any time on the following length of road:
   Spring Street, Cannock (east side) – from a point approximately 34 metres north of the centreline of the junction with Railway Street in a northerly direction for a distance of approximately 20 metres.
2. Exceptions will permit waiting for the purposes of taking up and setting down passengers; loading or unloading goods; for vehicles displaying a Disabled Person's Badge; and where necessary in connection with the maintenance of roads and the supply of gas, electricity, telephones, sewerage services and water and in the service of the Environment Agency; for emergency service vehicles; for vehicles being used for the provision of a universal postal service by a universal service provider; for buses waiting at an authorised bus stop; for vehicles being used for floods defence works or land drainage works; and for so long as is reasonably necessary in connection with any wedding or funeral.
3. This Order will amend the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009.
4. This Order will be called the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 (Amendment) No. 28/20xx.
5. This Order will amend the Plans marked BI 242 and BJ 242 incorporating waiting restrictions on the road specified in Article No. 1 above and which form part of the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 and in substitution thereof.
6. Full details of this proposal are in the draft Order which, together with maps showing the road involved and a statement of the County Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at the office of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Place; and during normal opening hours at Cannock Library, Manor Avenue, Cannock, Staffordshire or via the internet at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders.
7. IF YOU WISH TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED ORDER YOU SHOULD SEND THE GROUNDS OF YOUR OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR FOR PLACE, HIGHWAYS, 1 STAFFORDSHIRE PLACE, TIPPING STREET, STAFFORD, ST16 2LP NOT LATER THAN 28 MAY 2015 QUOTING REFERENCE HoCPS/TM/TR70/14.

John Tradewell, Director of Law, Democracy and Transformation,
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP.

Date 07 May 2015

To All Electors of Burntwood
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10 Personals

personal

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general

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Benteke helps Villa to chew up theToffees

Villa 3 Everton 2

CHRISTIAN Benteke's brace inspired Aston Villa to a vital 3-2 victory over lacklustre Everton.

The red-hot striker scored his ninth and 10th goals in eight games to ease Villa to a crucial win and maintain their cushion over the drop zone.

Tom Cleverley added a third just after Romelu Lukaku's penalty gave Everton hope of a comeback.

Phil Jagielka pulled a goal back in injury time but Villa hung on for just their fourth home league win of the season.

The hosts deserved their victory against the poor Toffees, who rarely showed the form which had seen them win five of their last six league games.

Villa are two points above the Premier League bottom three but are now, importantly, above free-falling Newcastle on goal difference in 14th.

Shay Given made his first top-flight start since August 2012 – when he played against Everton – after Brad Guzan was dropped following a shaky performance in the defeat at Manchester City.

Charles N'Zogbia also replaced Carlos Sanchez while Everton brought in Kevin Mirallas and Steven Naismith.

The Toffees were one of the form teams in the Premier League, having beaten Manchester United 3-0 last week, but Villa's start made a mockery of their recent results.

The tenacious hosts looked to cut through Everton early and grabbed a deserved lead after just 10 minutes.

Benteke had threatened already, glancing a header wide, but this time he made it count.

McAuley deal is a 'no-brainer'

CHRIS Brunt believes offering Gareth McAuley a new deal this summer should be a 'no-brainer' for Albion.

The 35-year-old defender's current contract expires in the summer but Brunt believes his fellow Northern Irishman still has plenty to offer the Baggies.

McAuley endured a frustrating first half to the season but has been a regular fixture in the team under Tony Pulis.

And Brunt said: "Since he got back into the team just before Christmas he's done very well and he's been very consistent. You only have to look back over the last four years and see just how consistent he has been. "He has probably been our most consistent performer so I think that's a no-brainer.

"I think everybody at the club will want him to stay.

"All the lads want him to stay because he's great to have around the place and he works unbelievably hard at his game for somebody who's getting on a bit."

Brunt also believes no-one should be fooled by McAuley's age, adding: "He's a freak – he's a fit lad for his age and he looks after himself well.

"That's credit to him. He came into the game late and he obviously wants to play at the highest level for as long as he can so fingers crossed he can get something sorted." McAuley is among players out of contract in the summer and Brunt believes everyone has a point to prove over the final four games, ahead of Pulis' first summer at the Hawthorns, adding: "With the new gaffer here I'm sure he will have a big say in what goes on over the summer," explained the 30-year-old.

"Regardless of what anybody thinks about whether we're safe or not, everybody has still got points to prove over the last few weeks of the season, whether they want to stay or want to leave.It's in everybody's best interests to play out the season to the best of their ability and try to get points for West Brom."

Sako warned to lower wage demands by Premier clubs

ALBION and Villa have told Wolves winger Bakary Sako to lower his wage demands if he wants to make a Premier League move across the West Midlands.

Both the Baggies and the Villans have insisted they will not meet Sako's initial asking price – believed to be around £50,000 per week – and will look elsewhere unless the Mali international lowers his sights.

But both clubs remain keen to sign the out-of-contract Molineux wideman and hope to negotiate a solution as the 27-year-old prepares for a summer auction for his services.

Sako is out of contract at Wolves and looks set to leave after an impressive season with Kenny Jackett's men, who missed out on the Championship play-offs only on goal difference at the weekend.

Wolves have promised to offer Sako a new deal to stay but it is unlikely they will be able to compete financially with Premier League sides and other clubs from top European leagues.

Sako confirmed that both Albion and Villa had expressed an interest in signing him this summer.

And he revealed he favours a move to the Premier League over possible deals elsewhere in Europe.

Leicester are also believed to be interested but Albion had hoped to steal a march on both the Foxes and Villa.

However, Sako's salary demands, which also include a sizeable signing-on fee, have taken Baggies officials by surprise.

Boss Tony Pulis is keen on Sako but the club will not sanction a deal that would make him their highest earner.

The Baggies relish taking Utd's scalp

Man Utd 0 Albion 1

TONY Pulis's Hawthorns reign might just have its launchpad.

For so long since his arrival on New Year's Day, Pulis' relationship with Baggies fans has felt like a marriage of convenience.

But victory on one of world football's grandest stages has finally given head coach and supporters a joyful, shared experience over which they can bond.

They might not have gone from uneasy bedfellows to bosom buddies quite yet.

But a second successive Baggies triumph at Old Trafford is a hell of place to start with building a more genuine love affair. Saturday's win had very little in common with the one in September 2013 – in fact the sense of joy at the final whistle was the only thing that felt the same.

Yet while the win for Steve Clarke's men was more thrilling, more shocking and more glorious, Saturday's success was more important.

Relegation

Because from a position of feeling safe from relegation when they left for Manchester on Friday afternoon, the Baggies arrived at kick-off time on Saturday evening at Old Trafford with an horrendous sequence of results leaving their battle for survival back on. Thanks to brilliant organisation, an iron will and some tremendous performances, Pulis's men pulled off a terrific triumph to move to their unlikely 40-point target with three games still to play.

Boaz Myhill was the hero with a penalty save from Robin van Persie and more fantastic blocks late on.

But the goalkeeper's heroics merely typified the spirit of his team, who clearly revel in games when they have nothing to lose, even if they struggled to live with the pressure of expectation when they were favourites against QPR and Leicester.

And on 63 minutes a counter-attack brought Albion the opening and only goal. Darren Fletcher burst through the middle and was body-checked by Paddy McNair, earning the United defender a booking.

And Brunt blasted the free-kick towards goal, with a huge deflection off Olsson's calf taking the ball past a helpless De Gea.

Kelly has sights firmly on Rio

Eilidh Child, Anyika Onuora, Kelly Massey and Seren Bundy-Davies after their bronze medal run

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Kelly Massey is closing in on a place at next year's Olympic Games after helping Great Britain's 4x400m relay team reach Rio.

The 30-year-old from Wheaton Aston was part of the British quartet that claimed a bronze medal in the on the final day of the IAAF World Relays in the Bahamas.

And she will now aim to cash in on her success by clinching a place on the team for next summer's games.

Massey was joined in the team by Eilidh Child, Anyika Onuora and Seren Bundy-Davies as they claimed third place in the 4x400m final to secure a spot in Rio.

A superb anchor leg from Bundy-Davies held off France's Floria Guei as the Brits crossed the line in 3:26.38.

"I could see on the screen that she was close but you can't really gain a perspective on the screen as it kind of warps things," said Bundy-Davies.

"I thought I'm in such a good position and just hold onto everything you have got. I couldn't see her and that's a good thing. I just kept on going."

"We've come out here and got the job done," said Onuora. "We finished top three."

Saido's goals 'saved Baggies from the drop'

CHRIS BRUNT has hailed the growing maturity of Saido Berahino and admitted the Baggies would be facing relegation without the young striker's goals.

Brunt praised the attitude of the club's leading scorer, who is due in London tonight to launch his new charity foundation.

And the former Baggies captain admitted it is Berahino's goals that have kept the side clear of the Premier League drop zone.

"He is a young lad who has done really well for himself and for us this season," said Brunt. "I make no bones about it, if he hadn't scored the goals he has this season we wouldn't be where we are. He's done really well and he's a young guy who's learning.

He has played a lot of first-team football this season."

Bradshaw is in no rush on contract

LEADING scorer Tom Bradshaw insists there is "no rush" to extend his contract at Walsall.

The 20-goal striker Bradshaw insists he is relishing his second season with the Saddlers and is relaxed about contract talks, which began in February.

Bradshaw has a year remaining on his current deal and insisted he will enjoy the pressure of being a marked man.

"Contracts are never done in a day," said the 22-year-old.

"I have discussed it with the gaffer a few times but like I say there is no rush for me or the club because I still have next year.

"There is no rush to get a new deal signed. We are talking about it and hopefully something can materialise. I enjoy the pressure of being looked upon as the goal threat."

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Blues boss hoping to keep Tesche on squad

Bolton 0 Blues 1

BIRMINGHAM manager Gary Rowett confirmed his desire to keep match-winner Robert Tesche next season after the on-loan Nottingham Forest midfielder settled a low-grade clash at Bolton on the final day of the Sky Bet Championship season.

The 27-year-old German netted the only goal after 43 minutes to give the Blues a deserved 1-0 win at the Macron Stadium.

"All the players we have brought in we have done so with an eye to seeing if something can happen next season," Rowett said.

"A lot of those things are out of our hands but I am pretty sure all the loan players like Tesche, Diego Fabbrini, Rob Kiernan and Lloyd Dyer all would like to stay.

"They have enjoyed being part of something that is very positive and being part of a winning team.

"Whether we get an opportunity to bring him to the club might be out of my hands. But we would like to do that. In Robert Tesche's case, he is a quality player."

Rowett's side was good value for victory over a team that were 1-0 winners at St Andrew's in Neil Lennon's first match in charge last October.

"The players have got to be given great credit for the way they moved the ball and looked a very controlled team," Rowett added.

"The game suited us because Bolton tried to play through us because they have good technical players in the middle.

"It was about blocking up that area, breaking wide and counter attacking. With a bit more composure in the final third we could have scored one or two more."

Pelsall must wait to know their fate

Studley 3 Pelsall Villa 5

PELSALL Villa won't know their fate until next week but if they are to drop down to level 7 next season they went out in a blaze of glory, courtesy of a three-goal salvo from Spencer Blackham that gives them a chance of finishing off the bottom.

It took only three minutes for Studley to go ahead through Shane Brassington.

Villa equalised on 10 minutes, Jake Gough turned away from his marker in the D and was brought down, Spencer Blackham firing the resulting free kick into the left hand corner of the net.

Villa kept up the pressure before deservedly going ahead on 40 minutes.

Letford charged into the right of the box, his low drive was blocked, a poor clearance was intercepted by Clarke who scored into the far corner, the goal ruled out because Luke Holmes had strayed offside.

The relief was short-lived as the clearance was delivered by Villa central defender Jamie Aiton straight back into the danger zone to find Clarke, his first time low drive putting Villa ahead.

Right on half time a Gough header out wide right was collected at pace by Clarke who raced through three tackles, crossed low into the box to Blackham who fired in a vicious first time low drive that was saved at full stretch by Watson, Blackham pouncing on the loose ball to increase Villas lead as we went into the break. Two minutes into the second half Villa went three goals ahead, Goughagain turning cleverly inside his marker only to be pulled back, Blackham firing home the free kick to complete his hat-trick.

Villa tried to keep the game tight in midfield but on 65 minutes a ball over the top was collected wide right by Giovanne Shaw, his ball inside found Brassington who ran on to slot the ball past the advancing Tom Burns.

The game was wrapped up when Letford tapped home from close range.

On 82 minutes Corey Lloyd-Derekcalmly slotted the ball past the stranded Burns in the Villa goal.

Saddlers are given a right battering

Bristol 8 Walsall 2

IF Walsall fans wanted reasons to worry for the future, they got it as their side threw in the towel in shocking fashion at Ashton Gate.

The Saddlers ran into an outstanding Bristol City side in party mood as they celebrated League One title glory.

Steve Cotterill's side were slick, powerful and stunningly ruthless in a second-half onslaught while Dean Smith's men surrendered alarmingly after such an encouraging first-half display.

The Saddlers headed into the interval level at 2-2 thanks to a Jordy Hiwula brace.

They folded in bizarre fashion after the break as centre-back Aden Flint completed a hat-trick for the Robins.

Jay Emmanuel-Thomas and Kieran Agard both scored twice for the hosts, with Marlon Pack also on target as Walsall caved in.

The early minutes of the game promised much as an unchanged Walsall side set out with attacking intent against the partying champions, making for an open, expansive spectacle.

And, after an end-to-end start, it was Smith's side who delivered on the promise with a fantastic opening goal.

Driving

Michael Cain's instinctive pass midway inside his own half sent Sam Mantom forward, driving at the heart of the City defence.

He took his time before feeding Hiwula to his left and the on-loan youngster produced a side-footed finish.

The Saddlers were pegged back by a fantastic goal on 16 minutes. Marlon Pack's left-wing cross after a short corner from Luke Freeman dropped for centre-back Flint, who unleashed a wonderful volley from 10 yards that flew past Craig MacGillivray in the Saddlers goal.

And their defences were breached again on 22 minutes, albeit with a hint of controversy as the visitors disputed the award of a penalty.

Thomas made no mistake, however, with a brilliantly nonchalant penalty past MacGIllivray.

The Saddlers restored parity nine minutes before half-time. It was another pleasing move to give Morris a shooting chance on the edge of the box, although they needed a slice of good fortune when the youngster's shot struck Flint.

Jordy Hiwula slots home to equalise for Saddlers at Bristol City, but the floodgates opened in the second half

It ricocheted to Hiwula, who fed the ball perfectly between the legs of a squared-up Ayling and low past an unsighted Fielding.

The home side had the first chance of the second half when they broke down their right and a cross found Agard just inside the Saddlers box.

The second half continued in the same pattern of the first but the Saddlers found themselves behind again on 57 minutes.

They were over-committed on the edge of the City box and, when the lost possession, the home side broke with four on two. Thomas drove through the centre and fed Agard, who slotted home coolly.

Pack made it 4-2 on 62 minutes. The hosts made it 5-2throughThomas blasted.

On 67 minutes the sixth arrivedas Flint poked home. Flint then added another. The rout was completed by Agard.

Firsts taste defeat again as Seconds are victors

Cannock 1sts 212 for 9 Swindon 1sts 213 for 8
Swindon won by 2 wkts

CANNOCK slipped to their second defeat in as many games with their match up away to Swindon.

With a side severely weakened by player availability, Cannock batted first scoring 213-8 with Wes Marshall 67 and James Caswell 36 the leading scorers for their squad.

In reply Swindon reached their target with two overs to spare for the loss of eight wickets.

For Cannock the there was Wes Marshall who took 3-59, Phil Heighway 2-33 and Ed Martin 2-72

Cannock 2nds 109 for 1 Swindon 2nds 108 all out
Cannock won by 9 wickets

Batting first this time Swindon Seconds scored just 108 all out with Keiran Squire taking 4-31.

In reply, Cannock made short work of overhauling their target, which they did after just 23 overs.

Matt Davenport put 37 on the scoreboard, Craig Squire racked up 34no and Mike Chadderton grabbed 29no.

Cannock 3rds 194 for 7 Wednesbury 3rds 164 all out
Cannock won by 30 runs

Cannock Thirds travelled to Aston University to play Wednesbury.

The visitors were asked to bat first and scored 194-7 with Ian Slym scoring 44 and David Chapman 37.

The steady fall of wickets during the Wednesbury innings saw Cannock finish winners by 30 runs.

Among those worthy of mention were Ant wood taking 3-45 and Albert Thompson who managed to take 3-56.

Paddock is all ready for title defence

BLOXWICH'S Luke Paddock puts up his light welter crown against Aston's Chris Truman, an ex-challenger for the belt, in a mandatory title defence, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday June 6.

The title tests, one of four on the night, are completed by Wolverhampton's Des Bowater, who contests the available crown against Lincoln's Bobby Jenkinson, beaten just once in nine bouts.

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Wolves will be stronger, says Edwards

DAVE EDWARDS believes the experience gained this season will make Wolves better equipped for a top-two challenge in next year's Championship.

The 29-year-old midfielder believes the campaign as a whole should be viewed as a big positive despite the immediate agony caused by their play-off near miss.

Kenny Jackett's side were kept out of the top six on goal difference alone but Edwards insists automatic promotion will be the aim from the start next term.

"It's frustrating and we've got to come back next season and try to finish in those top two positions," he said.

"If we do that and go up next season you might say we're better placed to go up."

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Sport

Baggies relish taking Utd scalp

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Saddlers are slaughtered

Page 95

Hednesford bosses sign up for more

BOSS Rob Smith and assistant Larry Chambers have agreed to another two years with Hednesford Town.

The managerial duo, appointed in October 2010, have confirmed they will be staying after talks with chairman Steve Price.

Overseeing four successive play-off campaigns, promotion to the Conference North, two County Cup victories and a League Cup triumph, they have helped the club to become settled at Step Two of the non-league ladder.

Smith said: "I have enjoyed my time here and continue to like it here. From the reaction which we had from the chairman and supporters during what has been a difficult campaign, it made us want to stay.

"Now the real work starts.

"Larry and I have already been out each night speaking to new players and we will be doing that each day until we have who we want here."

Smith and Chambers had overseen four successive play-off campaigns, which included winning promotion from the Evo-Stik Premier, prior to this season.

The Pitmen finished the 2014/15 campaign eighth in Conference North.

"If you look at it now though, it is probably going to be the biggest challenge which we have faced since we have been here," added Smith.

"We are going to need to rebuild the squad and, without a doubt, the league will be the strongest that we have known it."

Smith, along with members of the first team squad from the 2014/15 season, will be in attendance at the end of season Presentation Evening on this Friday, 7.30pm start in the Chase Suite.

We cannot rush summer deals warns boss Smith

DEAN SMITH admits Walsall must stay patient over prospective summer deals for Jordy Hiwula and Michael Cain.

The duo have impressed during loan spells with the Saddlers this season and have now returned to their respective Premier League parent clubs.

In both cases, Smith concedes deals cannot be rushed.

"The two of them have done really well and we thank their respective clubs," he said. "Talks will go on now after the season.

"They are both good players who have done well for us, but Michael is a Leicester player and Jordy is a Manchester City player so that's down to their respective clubs as to what they want to do with them."

Hiwula signed off his stint with the Saddlers in style as he scored two fine goals in the first half of Sunday's otherwise dire 8-2 defeat at Bristol City.

"He scored two very good goals and that's what he can do," added Smith. "People tell me he can only play up front but certainly in that system, in a three coming off the line, he can cause trouble for anyone."

Smith is red-faced over battering

Football

DEAN SMITH was "angry and embarrassed" after accusing his players of folding in Walsall's heaviest defeat for 32 years.

The Saddlers went down 8-2 to League One champions Bristol City in their final game of the season yesterday with the Robins netting four times in 10 second-half minutes to turn a 2-2 half-time scoreline into a rout.

The boss said: "We competed with them and looked a threat every time we broke and then they scored from our corner and we folded.

That was very unlike us and it makes me very angry but there's nothing I can do about it now. There is embarrassment because I don't think I've ever been beaten 8-2, even in kids' football."

"They are a very good team and we've got to give them the respect they deserve because they've deservedly won the title and they've done it in style with us as the fall-guys."

The Saddlers have not conceded eight goals since losing 8-1 at Bolton in a Third Division game in September, 1983, although they did lose by a bigger margin when they went down 7-0 against Chelsea at Fellows Park in the old Second Division in February, 1989. And Smith hinted that the second-half surrender could affect his decisions on some of his out-of-contract players, who are due to learn their fate tomorrow.

"The turning point was the third goal when they broke from our corner," he said. "It looked like it deflated a lot of us and it shouldn't have. There was an end-of-season feel and that's not good enough.

"I've got contract discussions with a lot of them and it lets me know where they are. You don't change your mind on one game but it showed me a bit about the character of some of them."

DOUBLE CUP JOY FOR CLUB

Cannock 3 Surbiton 1 2nd XI Cup Final

CANNOCK Men's Hockey Club ended its successful season with a double cup final triumph at the Lea Valley Olympic Legacy Stadium at London's Olympic Park.

England hockey's premier National Cup weekend was graced by two of Cannock's sides.

On the Saturday Cannock's Seconds took on Surbiton, who are in the top flight of national hockey. On the Sunday it was the turn of the Masters Over-40s to take centre stage as they took on last year's cup winners, Henley.

Cannock held off the challenge of Surbiton to win the 2nd XI Cup Final. Goals from Louie Morris, Aaron Wilkes and Tom Morris were enough to get the silverware back to Chase Park and send the travelling fans wild.

The Cannock side drew first blood with an excellent move down the right hand side setting up L Morris to apply the finish and break the deadlock.

Despite Cannock and GB's 2012 Olympic goalkeeper James Fair commanding the goal during his Olympic campaign, it wasn't long before the score was levelled by Adam Jolly's rocket penalty corner hit the roof of the net.

Flowed

The game flowed from end to end and on 20 minutes Reece Jecketts found some space in the Surbiton circle but his shot flew over the bar.

Ore Ogunlana made a fine double save and at the other end Alex Penney lobbed Fair only for his effort to go over the bar. With six minutes till the break Cannock took the lead from the penalty spot thanks to a powerful penalty stroke from Aaron Wilkes, nudging them in front at the break.

Cannock extended their lead 10 minutes after the break, when a long weaving run by Swinneton-Ions caused havoc in the Surbiton defence for TMorris to slot in the third.

Callum Stacey and Chris Beck both tested Ogunlana's reflexes from penalty corners but the young goalkeeper was up to the job and kept his side in the hunt, but there were to be no more goals and Cannock took the trophy.

The Cannock Hockey squad lift the 2nd XI Cup after beating Surbiton in the final

Masters Over-40s Trophy Final
Henley 2 Cannock 3

With Cannock's Masters Over-40s starting their third National Cup Final in as many years they were keen to make sure they came away with the silverware as they battled to a 3-2 win.

Goals from James Roberts, Duncan Woods and Andy Humphrey were enough despite strikes from Paul Chedzey and Dan Herbert for Henley.

It was looking like there was no way past the Henley goalkeeper but then shortly before half time, James Roberts slipped the ball through the goalkeeper's legs from a penalty corner. A minute after the break Paul Chedzey levelled the scores with a well-taken finish for Henley before Woods was kept out once more at the other end.

Woods eventually got the better of the goalkeeper with a splendid goal, diving to get a touch onto a long pass from Chris Mayer to divert the ball into the roof of the net.

As the Chase park side pushed for the winner Cannock were reduced Cannock to 10 men. Henley saw their opportunity to make it 2-2.

Thoughts started to turn to a penalty shootout but Andy Humphrey bagged the winner.

O'Donnell is top dog at awards bash

GOALKEEPER Richard O'Donnell was the big winner at Walsall's end of season awards, as he was named player of the season.

And the Saddlers No.1 made it a double triumph, also scooping the players' player of the year prize during a glittering ceremony at the Banks's Stadium On Sunday.

In the main award, which is voted for by fans, the 26-year-old claimed a whopping 69 per cent of the vote, with top scorer Tom Bradshaw a distant second after gaining 12.3 per cent. O'Donnell – who joined the club as a free agent in 2013 – has enjoyed a standout campaign, keeping 21 clean sheets in all competitions.

But while last night was one of celebration, his future at the Banks's remains in serious doubt as he is yet to confirm whether he will accept the Saddlers offer of a new two-year contract.

Rico Henry claimed the young player of the year prize after an impressive breakthrough campaign, while Ben Purkiss was named community player of the season for the second year running.

Jordan Cook's thunderbolt in December's 3-1 win over Barnsley won goal of the season, while youth team skipper, Kyle Rowley walked away with apprentice of the season.

There was also recognition for Graeme Brookes, who successfully completed the challenge to walk from Walsall to Wembley ahead of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final.

He was named fan of the season and veteran kit man, Tom Bradley, was given a long service award.

A special lifetime achievement award was also presented to former boss Chris Nicholl .

FA defends Cup ticketing scheme

THE FA has defended the allocation of FA Cup Final tickets after complaints from Villa and Arsenal fans.

Both clubs will receive 25,000 tickets for the May 30 showpiece at Wembley's 90,000-seater stadium.

The FA stressed it is important to reward members and volunteers of the 'football family,' while stating 25,000 is the maximum number of tickets offered to any club since the first final at the new Wembley in 2007. A further 17,000 tickets are on offer to members of Club Wembley, which is effectively a season ticket for the national stadium.

More than 32,000 Villa fans watched their team beat Liverpool 2-1 in the semi-final at Wembley.

★★★

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